

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010

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 Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring High School Large Group Room, Room 140, at 8:16 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Seven (7) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Tarin Houpt; Richard Norris; William Piper.

Kingsley Blasco and Richard Roush were absent.

Others in attendance: Richard Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Brooke Clouse and Douglas Kennedy, Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

III. PRAYER

Director Piper offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE DECEMBER 21, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris for approval of the December 21, 2009 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes and the December 21, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Douglas Kennedy/Brooke Clouse

The students offered the following report:

- A. The world language classes had a cultural festival on December 22, 2009. The event included dancing and food from various countries.
- B. The elementary schools provided great support for the National Honor Society food drive. Forty-two Newville area families benefitted from the donated food.
- C. The National Honor Society's Star Tree at Saylor's yielded gifts for 160 Newville area children who otherwise may not have had presents for Christmas. This was the greatest response ever from the community.
- D. Four FBLA members participated in regional competition at Shippensburg University on January 8, 2010. The following three students earned medals and qualified for FBLA State competition in April 2010: Codie Belden, second place in cyber security; William Garland, second place in marketing; and J.T. Swartz, third place in computer problem solving.
- E. Thirty-two students attended the FFA State Convention at the Farm Show on Monday, January 11, 2010. Six students earned blue FFA corduroy jackets. Caitlin Clarke and Abby Finkenbinder earned Keystone Degrees. Abby Finkenbinder was one of 14 students statewide who earned the State Star for agribusiness. Mrs. Nailor spoke at the convention, representing the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni.
- F. The second semester begins on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.
- G. Benchmark testing for math and English classes will occur this week in preparation for the second half of the year.
- H. Girls' and boys' basketball teams and the wrestling team will participate in competitions this weekend that will have first-place division implications.
- I. The Quiz Bowl team, Kevin Quirk, John Bolen, Jon Koch, and Doug Kennedy, lost their first match against Bermudian Springs but won the next two matches.
- J. The FFA Quiz Bowl team, Josh Anderson, Richard Beatty, Caitlin Clarke, Abby Finkenbinder, and Cody Miller, placed third in the state, defeating James Buchanan to obtain that position.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Kennedy indicated that Big Spring is not participating in Brain Busters this year.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report showed a General Fund ending cash and investment balance of \$12,652,470.83 as of December 31, 2009; an Athletic Fund balance of \$16,528.31 as of December 31, 2009; a Cafeteria Fund balance of \$170,879.44 as of December 31, 2009; Capital Reserve Fund investment balance of \$141,199.07 as of December 31, 2009; and a Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund cash balance of \$168,579.89 as of December 31, 2009.

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Swanson for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund Account Payment of Bills; Central Treasury Athletic, Cafeteria, and Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account Payment of Bills; and the Capital Reserve Account Payment of Bills

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Norris for approval of General Fund Account checks #56538-56761 totaling \$444,603.67; Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13504-13574 totaling \$10,257.46; Central Treasury Cafeteria Account checks #5160-5177 totaling \$95,927.91, and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #11797-11827 totaling \$24,960.75; and Capital Reserve Account checks #551-552 totaling \$15,517.30. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Cafeteria, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$591,267.09. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

April Messenger.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was offered.

XI. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No structured public comment was offered.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

(NOTE: The Board addressed
XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-21, following Item A-21.)

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teachers

(ACTION ITEM)

**Lauren Seibert – Elementary Education
Alisha Riccione – Elementary Education
Meghan Bullock – Elementary Education/Special Education
Ainsley Fay – Elementary Education
Megan Snyder – Music Education
Chelsea Swartz – Elementary Education**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additions of the individuals listed to the 2009-2010 per diem substitute teacher list as presented, pending all required paperwork.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

2. 2009-2010 Lifeguard (ACTION ITEM)

Christopher Sauter

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the individual listed to serve as a lifeguard during the 2009-2010 school year and summer months, pending receipt of all required paperwork.

3. Approval of Additional 2009-2010 Mentor Teacher (ACTION ITEM)

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Inductee</u>
Beth Demo	Krista Lupfer
(District Speech/Language Clinician)	(District Speech/Language Clinician)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the above listed individual to the 2009-2010 mentor teacher list as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

4. Ms. Bonnie Weldon, high school mathematics teacher, submitted her letter of resignation as a high school mathematics teacher, effective January 18, 2010.

A copy of Ms. Weldon's letter of resignation was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Weldon's resignation as a High School Mathematics Teacher, effective January 18, 2010.

(ACTION ITEM)

5. Ms. Stephanie Bovender submitted her letter of resignation as a life skills aide at the Middle School, retroactive to January 15, 2010.

A copy of Ms. Bovender's letter of resignation was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Bovender's resignation as a life skills aide at the Middle School, retroactive to January 15, 2010.

(ACTION ITEM)

6. Mr. Matthew Brinkman submitted his letter of resignation as assistant football coach, effective immediately.

A copy of Mr. Brinkman's letter of resignation was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Brinkman's resignation as assistant football coach, effective immediately.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

7. **Ms. Samantha Hinchey** submitted her letter of resignation as Technical Director for the Big Spring Musical, effective immediately.

A copy of Ms. Hinchey's letter of resignation was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Hinchey's resignation as Technical Director for the Big Spring Musical, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

8. **Mrs. Carrie Livelsberger** submitted her letter of resignation as a part-time cafeteria worker at the high school, effective immediately. Mrs. Livelsberger requested to be placed on the substitute cafeteria list.

A copy of Mrs. Livelsberger's letter of resignation was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Livelsberger's resignation as a part-time cafeteria worker and recommend placing Mrs. Livelsberger on the substitute cafeteria list.

9. **Part-Time Cafeteria Worker**

(ACTION ITEM)

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a part-time cafeteria worker at the High School, replacing Mrs. Carrie Livelsberger who has resigned.

Mrs. Susan Wilson

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Susan Wilson as a part-time cafeteria worker at the High School, replacing Mrs. Livelsberger who has resigned.

10. **Part-Time Nurses Aide**

(ACTION ITEM)

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a part-time nurse's aide replacing Ann Behnke who has resigned.

Mrs. Kimberly Egger

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Kimberly Egger as a part-time nurse's aide, replacing Ann Behnke who has resigned.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

11. Charles Hickes
Carlisle, PA 17015

(ACTION ITEM)
Long-Term Substitute High School Mathematics Teacher
(replacing Ms. Bonnie Weldon who has resigned)

Education:

Shippensburg University – Elementary Education (Bachelor’s Degree)
Bowie State – Counselor (Master’s Degree)
UMUC – Secondary Math

Experience:

Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher
Prince Georges County – Math Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Hickes to serve as a long-term substitute high school mathematics teacher, retroactive to January 4, 2010, replacing Ms. Weldon, who has resigned. Mr. Hickes’ compensation for this position should be established at Master’s, plus 30, step 18, \$64,152.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

12. Transfer of Professional Personnel

(ACTION ITEM)

As per Board Policies 3850.0-3850.4, the administration will transfer the professional employee whose name is listed below for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year.

Employee	From	To
Christina Gruver	Middle School Math Enhancement Teacher	Seventh Grade Mathematics Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the professional employee transfer as presented.

13. Newville Elementary School Quiz Bowl Coaches

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Wendy Arnold and Ms. Stefanie D’Amore were recommended to serve as Quiz Bowl Coaches for the 2009-2010 school year for the Newville Elementary School Quiz Bowl Teams.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Wendy Arnold and Ms. Stefanie D’Amore as Quiz Bowl Coaches for the 2009-2010 school year at Newville Elementary School and establish their compensation for this position based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

14. Mt. Rock Elementary School Quiz Bowl Coaches (ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Heather Schwartzmiller and Mr. Phillip Fassl have been recommended to serve as Quiz Bowl Coaches for the 2009-2010 school year for the Mt. Rock Elementary School Quiz Bowl Teams.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Heather Schwartzmiller and Mr. Phillip Fassl as Quiz Bowl Coaches for the 2009-2010 school year at Mt. Rock Elementary School and establish their compensation for this position based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

(ACTION ITEM)

15. Ms. Judy Mislitski, high school art teacher, requested one day of leave without pay for April 16, 2010.

Section 3.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides that "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave."

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Mislitski's request for one day of leave without pay as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

16. Mrs. Carol Madden, high school nurse, requested one day of leave without pay for February 9, 2010.

Section 3.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides that "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave."

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Madden's request for one day of leave without pay as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

17. Mrs. Sherri Webber-Mains, high school guidance counselor, requested one-half day of leave without pay for February 17, 2010.

Section 3.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides that "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave."

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Webber-Mains' request for one-half day of leave without pay as presented.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

- 18. Mr. Kemal Pegram**, high school learning support teacher, requested one-half day of leave without pay, retroactive to December 22, 2009.

Section 3.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides that "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave."

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Kemal's request for one-half day of leave without pay, retroactive to December 22, 2009.

(ACTION ITEM)

- 19. Mrs. Kathryn Keller**, beneficiary of Ms. Christina Keller, will be accepting the severance listed. The severance allowance has been calculated and submitted to the Board for approval at this time.

As per the following calculations, Mrs. Kathryn Keller, beneficiary of Ms. Christina Keller is entitled to a severance allowance in the amount of \$7,372.00, under option #2.

Option #1:

15 years of service X \$200.00 = \$3,000.00
(Maximum of \$12,500.00)

Option #2:

97 unused sick leave days X \$76.00 = \$7,372.00
(\$12,500.00 maximum)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Keller's severance allowance of \$7,372.00 as presented.

- 20. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Michelle Bear**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Michelle Bear, high school learning support teacher, requested leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence beginning tentatively March 18, 2010 through the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. According to Section 3.08 of the 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, her request meets all provisions for a child-rearing leave according to the current contract.

A copy of Mrs. Bear's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Michelle Bear's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence tentatively from March 18, 2010 through the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, according to the terms of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

21. 2009-2010 Additional Bus Driver for Deitch Busing (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Brenda Olm

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors acknowledge the addition of Ms. Olm's as a bus driver for the 2009-2010 school year, pending all required paperwork.

VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-21, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Credit Pay (ACTION ITEM)

The professional employees whose names are listed below have successfully completed graduate work and are entitled to the specified amounts in accordance with the negotiated contract.

Kathleen Bravin	\$ 1,071.00
Suzanne Brazeau	\$ 1,101.00
Amber Brennan	\$ 1,170.00
Matthew Brinkman	\$ 2,220.00
Therese Butkewich	\$ 1,110.00
Jessica Carr	\$ 1,071.00
Mallory Cohick	\$ 1,170.00
Lois Cox	\$ 1,480.00
Barbara Dellinger	\$ 1,071.00
Stephanie Devonald	\$ 1,170.00
Nicole Donato	\$ 1,110.00
Matthew Engleman	\$ 939.99
Tracey Feldbauer	\$ 1,110.00
Megan Frantz	\$ 1,110.00
Julie Friscia	\$ 1,071.00
Michael Fronk	\$ 660.00
Stacey Gibb	\$ 971.25
Heidi Gilbert	\$ 1,170.00
Lindsay Graham	\$ 1,110.00
Angela Heishman	\$ 1,560.00
Jennifer Heishman	\$ 1,110.00
Tyler Henry	\$ 2,142.00
Lauren Hetrick	\$ 1,170.00
Samantha Hinchey	\$ 2,220.00

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Credit Pay (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

Ashley Lloyd	\$ 1,110.00
Nicholas Losiewski	\$ 1,110.00
Lori Munson	\$ 780.00
Rachel Myers	\$ 1,170.00
Sherisa Nailor	\$ 636.00
David Roberts	\$ 1,119.00
Jennifer Roberts	\$ 1,110.00
Candice Rudy	\$ 1,071.00
Valerie Sauter	\$ 1,071.00
Heather Schwartzmiller	\$ 1,110.00
Susan Sheller	\$ 1,080.00
Jason Shover	\$ 1,071.00
SaraBeth Wanbaugh	\$ 636.00
Stephanie Webber	\$ 1,110.00
Total	\$44,272.24

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize reimbursement for graduate credits as outlined above and as provided in the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above.
Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf.
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Request for Fundraiser

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Mary Jo Neidlinger and Mr. Jesse Deutsch, middle school physical education teachers, requested Board approval for the "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser, a fundraiser that will be offered to the sixth and seventh grade students. The "Hoops for Heart" will be conducted during resource periods.

Additional information regarding the fundraiser was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Neidlinger's and Mr. Deutsch's request to conduct the "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser with the understanding that Mrs. Neidlinger and Mr. Deutsch will submit an audit summary of the fundraiser

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to approve the recommendation as outlined above.
Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

D. Memorandums of Understanding

(ACTION ITEM)

The Superintendent has reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding from the Pennsylvania State Police to compare with the current agreement and has found no updates are needed and the Memorandum of Understanding stands as presented by the Pennsylvania State Police.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Memorandum of Understanding from the State Police as presented.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to approve the recommendation as outlined above.
Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of the Resolution for Newville Elementary

(ACTION ITEM)

At the September 15, 2009 meeting of the Newville Borough Council the Council approved the Newville Elementary School construction plans and waived financial security requirements for public improvements. This resolution acknowledges that fact and thanks the council and affirms the School Directors will utilize assets at their means to ensure the project meets all regulatory requirements for public works meant to protect the residents and tax payers.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors adopt the included resolution regarding financial security requirements for public improvements.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

Superintendent Fry noted that this resolution was prepared with the aid of the District solicitor and the Newville Borough solicitor.

Roll call vote on the motion by Barrick and second by Lopp to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

(INFORMATION ITEM)

F. Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School General Fund Budget Proposal

The Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School has developed a General Fund Budget Proposal for the 2010–2011 school year. The proposed budget reflects a 2.47% increase for the 2010-2011 school year. The proposed General Fund Budget will be an action item on the next Board Agenda.

President Wolf indicated that the vo-tech school has done a good job containing costs and working within the available parameters.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(INFORMATION ITEM)

G. Updated Year-to-Date Summaries/Taxes and General Fund

The Business Office prepared updated year-to-date summaries for taxes and general fund that are included with the agenda.

Mr. Kerr reported that the District is doing well financially. Tax revenue has decreased; however, that decrease is to be expected, given the state of the economy.

Superintendent Fry indicated that he is pleased to report that the year-to-date expenditures this year are less than they were for the same period last year. This is a feat that is difficult to achieve.

(NOTE: The Board addressed XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items H, I, J, and K, following Item K.)

H. Case A of 2009-2010

(ACTION ITEM)

The parents of the student in Case A of 2009-2010 waived their right to a formal student discipline hearing before the Board of School Directors.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors exclude the student in Case A of 2009-2010 for a period of thirty days which may be reduced to fifteen (15) school days, based on the fulfillment of administrative requirements. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted on school property at any time for any reason.

I. Case B of 2009-2010

(ACTION ITEM)

The parents of the student in Case B of 2009-2010 waived their right to a formal student discipline hearing before the Board of School Directors.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors exclude the student in Case B of 2009-2010 for a period of thirty days which may be reduced to fifteen (15) school days, based on the fulfillment of administrative requirements. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted on school property at any time for any reason.

J. Case C of 2009-2010

(ACTION ITEM)

The parents of the student in Case C of 2009-2010 waived their right to a formal student discipline hearing before the Board of School Directors.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors exclude the student in Case C of 2009-2010 for a period of thirty days which may be reduced to fifteen (15) school days, based on the fulfillment of administrative requirements. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted on school property at any time for any reason.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

K. Case D of 2009-2010

(ACTION ITEM)

The parents of the student in Case D of 2009-2010 waived their right to a formal student discipline hearing before the Board of School Directors.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors exclude the student in Case D of 2009-2010 for a period of forty-five (45) school days and will be placed in an Alternative Placement. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted on school property at any time for any reason.

VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, ITEMS H, I, J, AND K

Motion by Norris, second by Lopp to combine and approve the recommendation as outlined above in XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items H, I, J, and K. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future Board agenda items.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp

The members of the Board of School Directors were provided with highlights of the recent District Improvement Committee meeting.

A District Improvement Committee is slated for Thursday, March 25, 2010.

B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson

The Athletic Committee will meet on Friday, January 29, 2010, at 7:00 A.M.

C. Vocational-Technical School – Mr. Wolf/Mr. Piper

The vo-tech school will meet on Monday, January 25, 2010.

Teacher contract negotiations are underway.

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

1. Roof Evaluation Request for Proposal

(ACTION ITEM)

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to approve this item as an action item and authorize the administration to seek a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a comprehensive roof evaluation of the District's buildings, excluding Frankford, Mifflin, and Plainfield schools. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

D. Buildings and Property Committee (Continued)

2. **Big Spring High School Building Commissioning RFP** **(ACTION ITEM)**
Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp approve this item as an action item and authorize the administration to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Big Spring High School building commissioning. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

The Finance Committee will meet prior to the February 1, 2010 Board meeting.

Director Lopp requested the administration to prepare an analysis on the financial impact to the District if the District were to offer an “early out” option for teachers who are approaching retirement age.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

Mr. Kerr reported that the South Central Trust operated “in the hole” approximately \$120,000 for the first quarter of the year; however, it operated \$80,000 ahead for the second quarter, for a total of \$40,000 expenses over revenues so far this year.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Kerr confirmed that there is a financial cushion in the SCT fund to accommodate these variations. The SCT had a similar revenue/expenditure picture last year.

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Building Advisory Team Meeting and Special Board Meeting

The Building Advisory Team will meet in the conference room at the District Administration Office on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at 6:00 P.M.

The Board will hold a special meeting in the conference room at the District Administration Office on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

B. Big Openings for the Newville Elementary School Project

Superintendent Fry reported that the bid openings for the Newville Elementary School project occurred today. The bids exceeded the estimated costs for the project.

Mr. Fry indicated that the Board would address the bids at a special meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. in the District Administration Office conference room.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

C. Sunday Facility Use

Mr. Fry indicated that he provided to the members of the Board of School Directors copies of information prepared by the administration regarding Sunday facility use.

The administration received a letter a letter from a group of District residents regarding the District's Sunday facility use policy. Mr. Fry met with the group to address their concerns and explain the Board's position on this issue.

Board members agreed with the way in which the administration has been handling Sunday facility use requests, on a case-by-case basis.

In response to a question from Mr. Fry, the Board directed the administration to respond to the group and indicate that the Board would continue to address Sunday facility use requests on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the community's concerns.

D. Cell Phone Use on District Buses

The members of the Board of School Directors were provided with copies of a memorandum to all employees of Deitch Bus Company from Richard W. Fry, Superintendent, BSSD, and Rick Gilliam, Director of Transportation, BSSD, regarding cell phone usage on buses and the corrective action that would be taken if the guidelines are violated. Please refer to the attached document.

The Board discussed the abuse of the District-supplied cell phones by District bus drivers and agreed that the memorandum is necessary and appropriate.

Mr. Fry noted that the bus drivers have been warned in the bus driver manual that they are not permitted to use cell phones while students are on the bus unless an incident arises where emergency communication is required. In cases of emergency, the bus must be sitting at a District building or pulled safely to the side of the road before a cell phone call is made or received.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that the administration is investigating devices other than cell phones to accommodate the communication needs of bus drivers.

Director Barrick indicated that he believes putting cell phones in buses was a good decision by the Board, and he encouraged the administration to enforce the guidelines for cell phone use, especially no cell phone use when the bus is moving.

President Wolf suggested that bus drivers be required to document their calls.

Detailed cell phone records are available. Although the bus drivers' cell phone use has remained within the allowable minutes according to the cell phone provider, some drivers' total usage has exceeded 700 minutes in one month.

Mr. Fry indicated that he believes many of the calls are being made in the one-half hour between secondary and elementary routes.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

D. Cell Phone Use on District Buses (Continued)

Director Barrick indicated that it should be stressed that drivers are to use the cell phones strictly for District business.

Mr. Kerr indicated that Nextel has the means to restrict the cell phone calls, and he added that the administration plans to put such a restriction into effect before the end of the year.

Mr. Fry indicated that the bus drivers would be provided with the attached memorandum on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

E. Extracurricular Activities

Mr. Fry congratulated the students who participate in extracurricular activities for the outstanding job they are doing this season. Mr. Fry added that the coaches and students are doing a "phenomenal job."

F. School Board Appreciation Month

Superintendent Fry thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for the sacrifices they make on behalf of the Big Spring School District, and he presented each Board member with a token of appreciation.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the floor.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Norris to adjourn to Executive Session to address personnel issues and not to return to Open Session. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.



Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, February 1, 2010