

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009**

*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 Mount 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 8:00 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Nine (9) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; Tarin Houpt, Board member-elect and Board member; Richard Norris; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

Sandra Rosenberry Deaver was 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; Steven Smith, High School Principal; Douglas Kennedy and Lauren Swartz, 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 Lopp offered a prayer.

- ### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE NOVEMBER 16, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**
- Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris for approval of the November 16, 2009 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes and the November 16, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. ELECTION OF THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT**

"...there shall be elected from the hold-over members a temporary president, and the secretary of the board shall act as secretary of such meeting. The certificates of the election or appointment of all new school directors shall be read, and a list of the legally elected or appointed and qualified school directors prepared."

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Roush to elect William Swanson as the Temporary President. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. OATH OF OFFICE**

When there are newly-elected and/or re-elected Board members, the Temporary President will administer the oath of office:

The Temporary President Swanson administered the oath of office to Mr. Barrick, Mr. Blasco, Mrs. Houpt, Mr. Norris, and Mr. Wolf.

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity."

**VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Refer to Sections 402 and 404 of the Public School Code of 1949.

**A. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT** (1-year appointment)

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Blasco to nominate Mr. Wilbur Wolf, Jr., for President.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Barrick to close the nominations. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll call vote on the motion by Barrick and second by Blasco to elect Mr. Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2010 Board President, Wilbur Wolf, Jr., began his duties.

**B. ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT** (1-year appointment)

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to nominate Mr. William Swanson for Vice President.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Barrick to close the nominations. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll call vote on the motion by Barrick and second by Lopp to elect Mr. William Swanson Vice President. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. APPOINTMENTS**

**A. Capital Area Tax Collection Bureau** (1-year appointment)

Current Representative - Mr. Wilbur Wolf, Jr.  
Alternate Representative - Mr. William Swanson

Mr. Wilbur Wolf was appointed to a one-year term as the Capital Area Tax Collection Bureau representative. Mr. William Swanson was appointed as the alternate representative.

**B. Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Chairperson** (1-year appointment)

Current Representative - Mr. Robert Barrick

Mr. Barrick was appointed to a one-year term as the Pennsylvania School Boards Association legislative chairperson.

**C. Capital Area Intermediate Unit** (1 year appointment)

Current Representative - Mr. Wilbur Wolf, Jr.

Mr. Wilbur Wolf was appointed to a one-year term as the Capital Area Intermediate Unit representative.

**D. Athletic Council** (1-year appointment)

Current Representatives - Mr. William Swanson  
Mr. Richard Roush

Mr. Swanson and Mr. Roush were appointed to serve one-year terms on the Athletic Council.

**E. District Improvement Committee** (1-year appointment)

Current Representatives - Mrs. Terry Lopp, Chairperson  
Mrs. Sandra Deaver  
Mr. Richard Norris

Mrs. Lopp, Chairperson, Mr. Norris, and Mrs. Houpt were appointed to the District Improvement Committee.

**F. Meet and Discuss Committee for Classified Employees** (1-year appointment)

Current Representatives – Mr. Kingsley Blasco, Chairperson  
Mr. William Piper

Mr. Blasco, Chairperson, and Mr. Piper were appointed to serve one-year terms on the Meet and Discuss Committee for Classified Employees.

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**VIII. APPOINTMENTS** (Continued)

**G. Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School** (1-year appointment)

Current Representatives – Mr. William Piper  
Mr. Wilbur Wolf, Jr.

Mr. William Piper and Mr. Wilbur Wolf, Jr., were appointed to serve one-year terms on the Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School Committee.

**H. Pennsylvania School Boards Association Liaison**  
(1-year appointment)

Current Representative – Mr. Robert Roush

Mr. Robert Roush was appointed to serve a one-year term as a Pennsylvania School Boards Association liaison.

**I. Buildings and Property Committee**

Current Representatives - Mr. Robert Barrick, Chairperson  
Mr. William Piper  
Mr. William Swanson  
Mr. Richard Roush

Mr. Barrick, Chairperson, Mr. Piper, Mr. Swanson, and Mr. Roush were appointed to the Buildings and Property Committee.

**J. Finance Committee**

Current Representatives - Mr. Kingsley Blasco, Chairperson  
Mrs. Terry Lopp

Mr. Blasco, Chairperson, and Mrs. Lopp were appointed to the Finance Committee.

**K. South Central Trust Board**

Current Representative - Mr. Kingsley Blasco

Mr. Blasco was appointed to serve as a representative to the South Central Trust Board.

**L. Tax Collection Committee**

Current Representative – Mr. Wilbur Wolf, Jr.

Mr. Wolf was appointed to serve as a representative to the Tax Collection Committee.

**IX. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Recognition of Vocational-Technical School Students of the Quarter**

Mr. Steven Smith, high school principal, recognized those Vocational-Technical School students who earned "Student of the Quarter" awards for the first quarter of the 2009-2010 school year.

Grade 10	Melissa D. Cronk	Advertising Art & Design
Grade 10	Katie M. Noreika	American Studies
Grade 10	Christopher D. Sauter	American Studies
Grade 10	Joshua S. Stewart	American Studies
Grade 11	Nicole A. Beidel	Cosmetology
Grade 11	Christina Carbaugh	Health Occupations
Grade 11	Erik R. Schall	Computer Information System
Grade 12	Ryan J. Beecher	Electrical Construction & Maintenance
Grade 12	Jasmine M. Morrison	Cosmetology
Grade 12	Austen Dennison	Graphics Communications III

Mr. Smith congratulated the students and presented them with certificates of achievement.

President Wolf and Vice President Swanson congratulated the students and presented them with Big Spring School District Excellence in Education award pens.

President Wolf thanked the parents and students for allowing the Board to recognize them at this evening's meeting.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Smith indicated that the American Studies course is part of the vo-tech school's social studies curriculum.

**B. Recognition of Academic Achievement Awards for the First Quarter**

Mr. Steven Smith will also recognize those students who have earned the academic achievement award for the first quarter for the 2009-2010 school year.

Grade 9	Tyler Black	99.6
Grade 10	Kayla Richwine	99.2
Grade 11	Carmen Witmer	99.32
Grade 12	Derek Baum	98.725

Mr. Smith congratulated the students and presented them with certificates of achievement.

President Wolf and Vice President Swanson congratulated the students and presented them with Big Spring School District Excellence in Education award pens.

Mr. Smith thanked the students and parents for attending this evening's meeting, and he thanked the Board for recognizing the students.

President Wolf thanked the parents and students for attending this evening's meeting.

X. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS (Continued)

C. Student Representatives to the Board Report – Douglas Kennedy/Lauren Swartz

1. Mrs. Daughtery, high school English teacher, is supervising a class that is working on a show to be broadcast on Channel 3. The show would feature students with unique hidden talents, staff members explaining their job responsibilities, and alumni who have succeeded in their careers.
2. Student Council members are preparing for the upcoming dinner for senior citizens and the luncheon for teachers.
3. Mrs. Pagze was awarded a grant through the Bulldog Foundation for the purchase of a teleconference system. The system was used recently to allow students to interview a man who had been homeless. The interview complemented a lesson on the book and movie Freedom Writers.
4. Three students qualified for District Band: Elaina McGann, Clayton McKee, and Dominic Baldoni. Big Spring will host the District Band concert in February 2010.
5. The high school chorus concert is slated for Thursday, December 10, 2009.
6. Eli Sheffield and Zach Zimmerman were awarded the "One in a Million Newwillians" citizenship award this month.
7. The National Honor Society food drive has been expanded to the high school this year. In past years only elementary school students contributed food for the NHS annual food drive.
8. Nearly all of the stars have been claimed on the NHS Star Tree.
9. The fall play, The Foreigner was a success. Two casts broadened the number of students who could participate in the play.
10. 42 of the 118 vo-tech students qualified for the honor roll for the first marking period.
11. Approximately 30 high school teachers and administrators are working in three different high school restructuring subcommittees to make positive changes in the high school's academic program. The subcommittees are freshmen transition, pathways, and literacy. Representatives from each subcommittee will update the Board at the December 21, 2009 meeting regarding their progress and plans for the 2010-2011 school year.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

XI. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report is presented at the second Board meeting each month.

XI. PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund Account checks #56168-56363 and voided check #56188 totaling \$909,549.51; Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13460-13485 totaling \$8,584.26 and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #11712-11768 totaling \$26,849.27; and Capital Reserve Account checks #547-549 totaling \$16,048.82. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Cafeteria, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$961,031.86. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Haupt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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**XII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no reading of correspondence.

**XIII. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Derek Baum, Mary Anne Baum, Wayne Baum, Mary Beidel, Nocolé Beidel, Bret Black, Gary Black, Jennifer Black, Tyler Black, Connie Black, Joe Carbaugh, Vicky Carbaugh, Melissa Cronk, Auston Dennison, Terri Hatch, April Messenger, Jasmine Morrison, Roger Morrison, Katie Noreika, Elizabeth Richwine, Kayla Richwine, Kyle Richwine, Tessa Richwine, Tim Richwine, Trevor Richwine, Christopher Sauter, Valerie Sauter, Charles Stewart, Cindy Stewart, Jon Trimmer, Carmen Witmer, Lori Witmer, and Peggy Wolf.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment was offered.

**XV. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No structured public comment was offered.

**XVI. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

(NOTE: The Board addressed  
XVII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-11,  
following Item A-11.)

**XVII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

**1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Guest Teacher**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

In an attempt to provide a sufficient number of substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year, the Big Spring School District is working in cooperation with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit to sponsor the "Guest Teacher Program." The individual whose name appears below has participated in an orientation program sponsored by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and have been issued emergency certification by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Paula Marshall**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the addition of the above-named guest teacher to the 2009-2010 per diem substitute teacher list, effective immediately.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

2. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teachers (ACTION ITEM)

Isaac Bucher – Technology Education/Agriculture Education  
Miranda Luckie - 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.

3. Public Relations Position (ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Brandie Shatto, Elementary Technology Integrator, was recommended to serve as the District's Public Relations Coordinator, effective immediately.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Shatto as the District Public Relations Coordinator and establish her salary, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

4. Volunteer Coaching Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch recommended the individuals listed to serve as volunteer coaches during 2009-2010 school year.

Jon Eavenson  
Amy Fry

Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball

Volunteer  
Volunteer

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint the above listed individuals to volunteer coach during the 2009-2010 school year.

(ACTION ITEM)

5. Mr. Jack Putt, eighth grade social studies teacher, was recommended to serve as the Assistant Social Studies Department Chairperson, effective immediately.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Jack Putt as the Assistant Social Studies Department Chairperson, effective immediately, and establish his compensation, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

6. Plainfield Elementary School Quiz Bowl Coach (ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Stacey Gibb, gifted teacher, was recommended to serve as the Quiz Bowl Coach for the 2009-2010 school year for the Plainfield Elementary School Quiz Bowl Teams.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Gibb as the Quiz Bowl Coach for the 2009-2010 school year at Plainfield Elementary School and establish her 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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**XVII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

7. **Ms. Katie Ocker**, fourth grade teacher at Newville Elementary School, requested one-half-day leave without pay for Friday, February 19, 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."

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

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

8. **Substitute Custodial Workers**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The individuals whose names are listed below were recommended to serve as custodial substitutes during the 2009-2010 school year.

**Mr. John Weller  
Mr. Samuel Cunningham**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Weller and Mr. Cunningham as a custodial substitutes as presented.

9. **Substitute Health Room Aide**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a substitute health room aide during the 2009-2010 school year.

**Phyllis Hurley**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Hurley as a substitute health room aide as presented.

10. **Fitness Center Custodial Position**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Richard Sample, Director of Building and Grounds requested to establish a four- to five-hour-per-day evening custodian position for the Fitness Center.

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Sample's request to establish a four- to five-hour-per-day evening custodian for the Fitness Center.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

**(ACTION ITEM)**

11. **Donna Lubold** Long-Term Substitute Title I Reading Teacher  
Carlisle, PA 17015 (replacing Mrs. Jennifer Roberts who will be on child-rearing leave)

**Education:**

Shippensburg University – Elementary Education (Bachelor's Degree)

**Experience:**

Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher/Long-Term Substitute Teacher  
Cumberland Valley School District – Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Lubold to serve as a long-term substitute Title I Reading Teacher at Plainfield Elementary School beginning approximately January 4, 2010, replacing Mrs. Roberts, who will be on child-rearing leave. Ms. Lubold's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, Step 1, \$37,812.00, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

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

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to combine and approve XVII, NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-11, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XVII. 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.

<b>Suzanne Brazeau</b>	<b>\$ 1,101.00</b>
<b>Angela Heishman</b>	<b>\$ 780.00</b>
<b>Mark Potter</b>	<b><u>\$ 789.99</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,670.99</b>

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: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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### XVII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### C. Facilities Utilization Request

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mount Rock Elementary School PTO requested permission to use the high school commons and gym on Sunday, April 25, 2010 from 1:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. for the Mount Rock Elementary School Spring Fun Fair. Because the utilization date is on a Sunday, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mount Rock Elementary School's request to use the high school commons and gym on April 25, 2010, as presented.

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

#### D. Food Safety Policy #808.2

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Rick Gilliam, Food Service Director, submitted the Food Safety Policy as an information item at the November 16, 2009 Board meeting for review.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Food Service Policy as presented.

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

#### E. Positive Behavior Support Policy #113.1

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. William Gillet, Supervisor of Special Education, submitted the Positive Behavior Support Policy as an information item at the November 16, 2009 Board meeting for review.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Positive Behavior Support Policy as presented.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above and as amended during this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### F. Approval of Bid Advertisement

**(ACTION ITEM)**

McKissick and Assoc. completed the development of the bid documents for the "Addition and Renovation to the Newville Elementary School, 100 Steelstown Road, Newville, PA 17241." A copy of the advertisement and a scope summary of the bid specification are included with the agenda. The first advertisement date will be December 15, 2009. A pre-bid conference is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., January 5, 2010. Bids will be received until 10:00 am on January 12, 2010 and subsequently opened and read in the DAO. The Board would then vote on the bids at the January 18, 2010 meeting.

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**XVII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**F. Approval of Bid Advertisement (Continued) (ACTION ITEM)**

The administration recommended the Board approve the advertisement for bids of the Newville Addition and Renovation project as prepared by McKissick and Assoc. with a submission deadline of 10:00 A.M. on January 12, 2010.

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

**G. PDE Approval of Newville Additions and Renovations (ACTION ITEM)**

School Code requires PDE to approve any school construction or reconstruction, and for ordinary repairs or maintenance work of a value greater than \$15,000. The application must be submitted and receive Departmental approval before the district enters into contract for the planned work. The PDE approval process includes the submission of the attached PDE Form 3074 (self certification) and selected pages of PLANCON Part F. Additional info is at: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/nonreimbursable\\_projects/7461/frequently\\_asked\\_questions/509151](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/nonreimbursable_projects/7461/frequently_asked_questions/509151)

The administration recommended the Board approve the Form 3074 and selected pages of PLANCON Part F for submission to PDE for their approval of the project.

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

**H. 2010 Senior Class Trip (ACTION ITEM)**

The 2010 Senior Class requested a change of date for the 2010 Senior Class Trip. The Senior Class would like to change the date from May 28, 2010, to February 12, 2010.

Information was included with the agenda.

Mr. Fry explained that the May 28 date would be the Friday before Memorial Day, and the class wished to select an alternate date. Mr. Fry added that the administration and the class sponsors support the class's decision.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that he believes the students would enjoy a snow resort just as much as an amusement park.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Barrick to approve this item as an action item and approve the 2010 Senior Class requested change of date as presented. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**I. Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community Grant (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent has received correspondence regarding the approval of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community Grant.

Information was included with the agenda.

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**XVII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**J. Walmart Grant**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology would like to propose a Walmart Grant that is available for equipment for the elementary physical education classes.

Information was included with the agenda.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Roberts indicated that the equipment would include a Wii fitness program, the electronic gaming system and TV monitors. The grant would support the purchase of equipment for one elementary school, and the goal is to attempt to secure grants to provide similar systems for all of the elementary schools.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to approve this item as an action item and authorize Mr. Roberts to proceed with requesting a Walmart Grant as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**XVIII. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future Board agenda items.

**XIX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp**

The District Improvement Committee met on November 19, 2009, at 6:00 P.M.

Items addressed at the meeting included the following: strategic plan needs assessment, parent/community survey, eChalk, mailer, focus groups involving students, and surveys for staff. In addition, the Committee broke into work groups and modified the surveys used in the past. Mr. Roberts provided an update on online learning, and Mrs. Temple offered an update on the District's H1N1 vaccines.

The District Improvement Committee will meet on January 14, 2010, to finalize the needs assessment plans.

**B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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

The JOC will meet on Monday, December 14, 2009.

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### XIX. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

The Building Advisory Team will meet on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 5:00 P.M.

Mr. Sample is following up on items addressed at the last Buildings and Property Committee meeting, and a report on those items will be offered at the January Buildings and Property Committee meeting.

#### E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

The Finance Committee will meet on Friday, December 11, 2009, at 6:50 A.M.

#### F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

#### G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

### XX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#### A. Race to the Top

The federal *Race to the Top* Fund provides competitive grants to encourage and reward States that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform. Pennsylvania could qualify for between \$200 million and \$400 million in funding. Thirty school districts in the state automatically qualify for the one-time funding because they are in the bottom 5% from an achievement standpoint. Another 150 districts/buildings could qualify for the remaining money. The State would receive 50 percent of the federal funding to distribute, and the local districts would receive the remaining 50 percent.

Members of the District's administration have been viewing webinars and attending meetings to glean as much information as possible about the grants. Board members were invited to attend a webinar on this topic on Friday, December 11, 2009, at noon in the District administration office.

Mr. Fry noted the following information he has learned about the *Race to the Top* Fund:

1. The inflexible federal timeline requires a letter of intent by December 18, 2009. A final Board decision on grant submission must be made by January 12 or 13, 2010, and requires the signatures of three parties: the Board president, the superintendent, and the president of the teacher union.
2. The 31 pages of information received contain a lot of "gray area."
3. There is no information regarding whether a District can supplant funds for initiatives already in place.
4. The grant could be used for the hiring of personnel, depending on the position considered. Other uses could be data utilization, standards alignment, rewarding teachers and principals who are making positive improvements in the schools, Keystone exams, and the standards aligned system (SAS).

**XX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)**

**A. Race to the Top (Continued)**

5. Big Spring would have to opt in to qualify for the grants.
6. Possible drawbacks include the fact that *Race to the Top* is one-time funding that would require sustainment locally after the first year; sidebar conversations would be required with PSBA, the administration, and representatives from the Board to determine some type of MOU that does not tie the District to anything in the future; the District must negotiate with the teacher union with regard to the achievement that is tied to the evaluation component. Merit pay is difficult to implement beyond the elementary level.
7. If Big Spring is successful in obtaining a grant, the money would be used in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, but could be used for up to four years.

**B. H1N1 Update**

Approximately one-third of the student population has been vaccinated for H1N1.

580 elementary students received the H1N1 vaccine in the form of mist or injections. The students who received the mist will receive the second dose next week.

435 secondary students received the H1N1 vaccine during parent-teacher conferences.

The administration is considering offering the vaccine to secondary students during school hours.

H1N1 appears to have subsided at this time, but a resurgence is expected later this winter.

**C. Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) Conference**

Mr. Fry congratulated Morgan Vallie, a middle school student who has been elected to the PASC State Board. Only two middle school students in the state are chosen for this position.

Mr. Fry noted that Big Spring is well represented across in the state, and he added that Travis Gilbert is a student representative to the State Board of Education and Big Spring has had students on the State FFA Board as well.

**D. Building Advisory Team Meeting**

Mr. Fry announced that a Building Advisory Team meeting would be conducted on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 5:00 P.M.

**E. Mifflin and Frankford Update**

Superintendent Fry reported that he has had discussions with the lessees at the Mifflin and Frankford facilities regarding the Board's consideration to sell the facilities.

The River Rock representatives are open to possible ownership in exchange for "education slots" at Mifflin because that entity has already made significant changes to the physical plant.

Yellow Breeches representatives would possibly consider such a transfer of ownership at Frankford but would need more time to make a decision.

Neither building has an existing reverter clause. Big Spring could consider a reverter clause for the two facilities if there is a change in the educational use of the facilities.

**Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 7, 2009**

**XXI. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Thank You, Veterans!**

In light of the fact that today is Pearl Harbor Day, Director Blasco thanked the veterans for their sacrifices on behalf of our country.

**XXII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

**XXIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Lopp to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.



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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, December 21, 2009**