

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010

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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; Richard Norris; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

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; Lauren Swartz 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 Blasco offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2010 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE FEBRUARY 15, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Lopp for approval of the February 15, 2010 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes and the February 15, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

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

The students offered the following report:

- A. Kacy Blessing placed first in the job interview category at the Skills USA competition. Tyler Russell did not compete at this level; however, he will compete at the State level with Kacy in the dental assisting category.
- B. The National Council of Teachers of English has awarded Charisma the “superior” rating through its program designed to recognize excellence in literary magazines. Charisma is one of the top five literary magazines in the state.
- C. The boys’ basketball team won one game and lost one game in the playoffs, ending the season with a 15-8 record.
- D. The girls’ basketball team ended the season with a 14-9 record after losing in the first round of playoffs.
- E. On February 23, 2010, two Bulldog divers earned medals at the District III diving championships. Dewey Stout placed fifth, while Donnie Sauter earned a bronze medal and a trip to the PIAA state championships in March.
- F. Congratulations to the Bulldog wrestling team for a strong weekend at the District meet. The team finished fourth, and several wrestlers offered excellent individual performances. Dustin Rook finished fourth at the 103-pound weight level, and Luke Etter finished third at the 160-pound weight level. Dereck Enders is the new District champion at the 112-pound weight level.
- G. Approximately 150 parents attended the eighth grade course selection meeting held recently, double the turnout in prior years. The pathways initiative, graduation requirements, and the scheduling process were among the items addressed during the meeting.
- H. The students thanked the Student Council members, Ms. Daugherty, and Ms. Cohick for organizing an “excellent” winter dance Saturday, February 27, 2010.
- I. Students enjoyed National FFA Week last week. Students attended a leadership workshop on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. The visit from Michael Pechart, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, was postponed because of inclement weather on Friday, February 26, 2010.
- J. The Music in the Schools Concert is slated for Friday, March 5, 2010.
- K. Approximately 40 students are participating in the District’s internship program this year. To qualify for an internship, students must complete an application, secure two teacher recommendations, and meet with Ms. Black during Grade 11. The internships occur during the senior year. Many students have chosen the medical and education fields. Students complete daily journals and an internship project to earn credits toward graduation. Internships vary in length.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

VI. TREASURER’S REPORT

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

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund Account Payment of Bills and Central Treasury Athletic and Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account Payment of Bills

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund Account checks #57065-57187 totaling \$681,056.36 and Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13679-13691 totaling \$988.87 and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #11859-11895 totaling \$29,042.24. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Cafeteria, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$711,087.47. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Charlene D'Amore, April Messenger, Luke Verone, and K. Warchol.

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-12,
following Item A-12.)

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teacher

(ACTION ITEM)

Kyle Sallee – Social Studies (grades 7-12)

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

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

2. Additional Per Diem Substitute Guest Teachers

(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 individuals whose names appear below has participated in an orientation program sponsored by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and has been issued an emergency certification by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Yvonne Bowland
Elizabeth Yarbrough**

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

(ACTION ITEM)

3. Mr. Greg Ellerman, junior high track coach, submitted his letter of resignation as junior high track coach.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Ellerman's resignation as junior high track coach, effective immediately. The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors

(ACTION ITEM)

4. Mrs. Faye Drawbaugh, part-time cafeteria worker at Oak Flat Elementary School, submitted her letter of resignation. Mrs. Drawbaugh would like to be placed on the substitute cafeteria list.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Drawbaugh's resignation as a part-time cafeteria worker and also place her name on the substitute cafeteria list.

(ACTION ITEM)

5. Mrs. Sharon Deitch, full-time cafeteria worker at the high school, submitted her letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 4, 2010. Mrs. Deitch's severance allowance has been calculated and submitted to the Board for approval at this time.

As per the following calculations, Mrs. Deitch is entitled to a severance allowance in the amount of \$4,900.00, under option # 1.

Option #1:

28 years of service X \$175.00 = \$4,900.00
(maximum of \$9,500.00)

Option #2:

69.5 unused sick leave days X \$50.00 = \$3,475.00
(maximum of \$9,500.00)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Deitch's letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement and her severance allowance of \$4,900.00 as presented.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

6. **Mr. James Keast** was recommended to serve as part-time evening custodian at the high school.

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Keast to serve as part-time evening custodian at the High School, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

7. **Ms. Linda Frantz** was recommended to serve as part-time evening custodian at the high school.

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Frantz to serve as a part-time evening custodian at the high school, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

8. **Mr. John Weller** was recommended to serve as a part-time evening custodian at the high school fitness center.

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Weller to serve as a part-time evening custodian at the high school fitness center.

(ACTION ITEM)

9. **Mrs. Tamara Dobson** was recommended to serve as a part-time cafeteria worker at Oak Flat Elementary School, replacing Mrs. Drawbaugh, who has resigned.

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Dobson to serve as a part-time cafeteria worker at Oak Flat Elementary School as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

10. **Mrs. Sherisa Nailor**, high school agriculture teacher, requested two days of leave without pay for April 1, 2010, and April 5, 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. Nailor's request for two days of leave without pay as presented.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

- 11. Jenelle Smith** Middle School Math Enhancement Teacher Long-Term Substitute Teacher
Enola, PA 17025 (replacing Christina Gruver, who has transferred) **(ACTION ITEM)**

Education:

Towson University, Maryland – Journalism (Bachelor's Degree)
Susquehanna University – Teaching Certificate Mathematics

Experience:

Susquenita High School – Mathematics Student Teacher
Prince George's County – Math Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Smith to serve as a long-term substitute middle school math enhancement teacher, replacing Christina Gruver, who has transferred. Ms. Smith's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, step 1, \$37,812.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

12. Coaching Appointments

(ACTION ITEM)

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

Bethany Long	Girls' High School Assistant Soccer Coach
Michael Ginter	Girls' High School Assistant Soccer Coach
Carly Fry	Girls' Junior Varsity Assistant Softball Coach
Matt Engleman	Junior High Assistant Track Coach
Greg Ellerman	Junior High Track Coach (Volunteer)
Ron Gail	Junior High Track Coach/Boys' Soccer (Volunteer)
Merle Guyer	Boys' Baseball Assistant Coach
Lance Miller	Boys' Baseball Assistant Coach (Volunteer)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint the above-listed individuals to coach during the spring of the 2009-2010 school year and establish their salaries based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District, pending all required paperwork.

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

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-12, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. National Junior Honor Society Fundraiser (ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Sue Piper requested Board approval for the National Junior Honor Society to conduct a hoagie fundraiser to begin March 18, 2010.

Additional information regarding the fundraiser was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Piper's request to conduct the fundraiser for the National Junior Honor Society to begin March 18, 2010.

Motion by Norris, 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.

C. 2010-2011 Capital Area Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget (ACTION ITEM)

A summary of the Capital Area Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget for 2010-2011 was included in the agenda. A copy of the proposed budget was provided to the members of the Board of School Directors at the February 15, 2010 Board meeting.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Capital Area Intermediate Unit's 2010-2011 General Operating Budget 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. Planned Course Adoption (ACTION ITEM)

Listed below is a completed planned course for board approval.

High School
Technology and Its Impact

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the planned course as presented.

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Roush 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. Case E of 2009-2010 (ACTION ITEM)

The parents of the student in Case E 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 E 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.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Swanson 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.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

F. Grant Application Request

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology, requested permission to pursue a grant opportunity titled "Classroom Earth: 2010 National High School Challenge." The successful grant recipients could receive up to \$4,000.00 in grant monies utilized to assist high school educators integrate environmental education into their curricula.

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the administration to pursue the request for grant funds as noted above.

Motion by Barrick, 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.

G. 2010-2011 High School Course Description Guide

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Mr. Steven Smith, high school principal, submitted the 2010-2011 High School Course Description Guide.

A copy of the proposed 2010-2011 High School Course Description Guide was provided to the members of the Board of School Directors for review and comment.

H. Federal Programs Consolidated Amendment Application

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent, submitted the 2009-2010 Federal Programs Consolidated Amendment Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and it has been approved.

Information was included with the agenda.

XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future Board agenda items.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

President Wolf encouraged everyone to attend the Pennsylvania Home Builders Show March 6 to 14, 2010, at the Farm Show Complex. At the show, vo-tech students will construct a log home with a gazebo, and each item will be sold separately at the end of the show.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

Please refer to this evening's Buildings and Property Committee meeting minutes.

Hurricanes Softball Field Work and Utilization Agreement (ACTION ITEM)

The members of the Board of School Directors were provided with copies of a February 25, 2010 memorandum to the Big Spring Board of School Directors and Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools, from Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, regarding a proposed Hurricanes Softball Field Work and Utilization Agreement. Solicitor Spare has reviewed the proposed agreement. Please refer to the attached document.

Motion by Barrick, second by Swanson to approve this item as an action item and authorize the administration to approve the Hurricanes Softball Field Work and Utilization Agreement as addressed during this evening's Buildings and Property Committee meeting. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Newville Elementary School Project

Superintendent Fry indicated that today the staging process for the Newville Elementary School construction project began. The project is slated for completion in August 2010.

Principal August sent a letter to parents and offered two Global Connect messages preparing families for the impact the project would have on the community.

The services of two auxiliary police have been enlisted to assist with the student pickup/dropoff zone in the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church parking lot. The first day went as smoothly as the administration could have hoped.

Construction and well drilling will begin the week of March 8, 2010.

B. PSERS Packet

Mr. Fry provided the members of the Board of School Directors with copies of a PSERS information packet proposed for distribution to legislators. The administration plans to have a resolution related to this matter at the March 15, 2010 for the Board's consideration.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

B. PSERS Packet (Continued)

Mr. Fry indicated that he has incorporated into the packet the Board's suggestions, and he encouraged Board members to offer additional suggestions for improvement.

Following Board approval of the resolution, the packet, along with a letter from the Superintendent and the Board, would be mailed to legislators and key communicators in the community and posted on the District's Web site. The administration will prepare a press release as well.

In response to a suggestion from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that adjustments would be made to the third page as noted.

Mr. Kerr described the assumptions that were made in the real estate tax calculations included with the information packet.

In response to a question from Director Piper, Mr. Kerr indicated that he would add the information Mr. Piper requested at a prior board meeting regarding Big Spring School District PSERS costs. Mr. Kerr added that the calculations include the assumption that all personnel costs would increase approximately 4 percent per year, with PSERS costs in addition to that. Mr. Kerr indicated that there would be a footnote to clarify the assumptions included in the calculations.

C. Vo-Tech Achievement

Superintendent Fry commended three vo-tech students for performing well in State competition.

D. Makeup Days

Mr. Fry indicated that the four makeup days built into the schedule have been used. If additional days off were required because of inclement weather, the administration would find creative ways for seniors to make up those days before graduation. Mr. Fry stressed that the commencement date would not be affected by any days off for inclement weather.

The District has not met any of the requirements for a waiver associated with the minimum number of instructional days.

Mr. Fry noted that the District was identified as a standby warming center for two days during snowstorms this winter; however, the facilities were not used for warming purposes.

E. Technology at Board Meetings

Mr. Fry indicated that, in light of the use of technology at Board meetings, the administration is asking that the Board consider relocating Board meetings to the District administration office beginning with July 2010 Board meetings. If a large turnout were expected, the meeting could be relocated to the middle school auditorium.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that the District administration office could accommodate the Board and approximately 25 visitors.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Winter Ball

Director Barrick commended the Student Council and staff members for organizing the Winter Ball. Mr. Barrick noted that the decorations were donated, and he added that it was a "nice dance."

B. School District Merger

Director Blasco questioned whether the Board had any interest in entering into discussions to combine the Big Spring School District with the Carlisle Area School District.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Blasco indicated that, in his opinion, the advantage to such a merger would be fewer administrators and a larger tax base.

President Wolf cautioned that such a merger could be a culture shock for some.

Mr. Blasco indicated that the Carlisle Area School District is in the midst of a search for a superintendent. Mr. Blasco indicated that he realizes this is not a popular consideration; however, he noted that it might be prudent to make such a move "before the State tells us we have to."

Superintendent Fry indicated that, at the request of the Board, he would investigate this matter with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Mr. Fry added that PDE could offer support in this area at a cost less than that of a private entity.

C. Visit from Mr. Michael Pechart

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that he does not know the rescheduled date for a visit from Mr. Michael Pechart, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Mr. Pechart's visit to the District was postponed because of inclement weather on Friday, February 26, 2010.

D. Course Selection Meeting

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that in future years, the Grade 8 course selection meeting would be held in a room larger than the large group room. Approximately 150 parents attended the Grade 8 course selection meeting held recently, double the turnout in prior years. This year the meeting could not be relocated to the auditorium at the last minute because of musical practice.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

XIX. 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 8:24 P.M.



Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, March 15, 2010