

# BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 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. Eight (8) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Tarin Houpt; Richard Norris; William Piper, and Richard Roush.

Kingsley Blasco 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; Denny Clopper, The Valley Times-Star; Cora Agar, Student Representative 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 MARCH 1, 2010 BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES; THE MARCH 1, 2010 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES; AND THE MARCH 1, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Norris, seconded by Barrick for approval of the March 1, 2010 Buildings and Property Committee Meeting minutes; the March 1, 2010 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the March 1, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: 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 – Cora Agar**

- A. On Friday, March 5, 2010, the Big Spring music department held its annual Music In Our Schools Month Concert, showcasing the department's music program from each level of study. The performing groups included the elementary pop band and Orff ensemble from Oak Flat Elementary School, the sixth grade band, the middle school jazz band "Encore," the middle school choir, Cantabile, and the high school concert band. The event showcased the hard work of the students and the directors.
- B. On March 6, 2010, three wrestlers competed in the regional championships. Senior Luke Etter placed third in the 160-pound class. Freshman Dustin Rook placed fourth in the 103-pound class. Dereck Enders is the 112-pound champion. This past weekend Luke and Dereck competed in the state championships. Dereck placed fourth with a record of 3-2, and Luke ended the season with a record of 1-2.
- C. On March 6, 2010, members of the swimming team competed in regional championships. The girls' medley relay team, including Emily Shumaker, Jess Witmer, Alexis Anderson, and Kelsey Marshall, finished sixth. The girls' 200 free relay team, including Alyssa Jones, Jess Witmer, Kelsey Marshall, and Emily Shumaker, also finished sixth. Emily Shumaker finished fourth in the 50 free and seventh in the 100 backstroke, qualifying for state championships in both of these events. Donnie Sauter finished third in diving and qualified for state competition.
- D. Spring sports started last Monday. 28 girls showed interest in the soccer team, and 28 boys expressed interest in the baseball team. 25 girls tried out for the softball team, and 85 students signed up for track and field. Approximately 35 percent of the student body participated in at least one sport at the high school and middle school this year.
- E. On March 6, 2010, Club Care held its annual dodgeball tournament. Each team created T-shirts for the event. 26 teams competed, raising \$1,000 for the Caring Place.
- F. On March 11, 2010, Mr. William Piper, Board member, visited Mr. Elsier's government classes to address the process involved with announcing one's candidacy and placing one's name on the election ballot. Mr. Piper addressed two sections of seniors regarding the importance of voting and the activities involved with running for election.
- G. This Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the high school musical cast for Anything Goes will offer shows at 7:30 P.M. Thursday and Friday, with 2:00 and 7:30 P.M. shows on Saturday. Reserved seating is available, and tickets will be sold at the door.
- H. The National Honor Society and Student Council will assist a local fire company on April 23, 2010 for the Youth Day of Caring.
- I. The National Honor Society members are planning an egg hunt for March 31, 2010, for students in preschool through Grade 5. The doors will open at 5:00 P.M. for games, face painting, and the bunny hop with the Easter bunny. The egg hunt will begin at 5:30 P.M.
- J. During the last few weeks, meetings have been held at the high school for students of all grades, including vo-tech and full-time students. The purpose of the meetings is to update the strategic plan of the high school. Mr. Smith, the Faculty Advisory Committee, and the School Improvement Team will use this data to improve education in the school and the District.
- K. In preparation for the PSSAs, the math and English departments have begun two focus groups. Participating students scored borderline proficient or below on the benchmark examinations or a teacher recommended them for the classes. 23 students will participate in the reading program, and 94 students are enrolled in the math program. The sessions will include one-on-one instruction.

President Wolf thanked the Miss Agar for the report.

**VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report showed a General Fund ending cash and investment balance of \$10,802,686.16 as of February 28, 2010; an Athletic Fund balance of \$13,708.79 as of February 28, 2010; a Cafeteria Fund balance of \$184,633.61 as of February 28, 2010; Capital Reserve Fund investment balance of \$132,540.97 as of February 28, 2010; and a Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund cash balance of \$145,397.03 as of February 28, 2010.

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

**VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

Motion by Piper, seconded by Norris for approval of General Fund Account checks #57188-57327 totaling \$293,208.80 and Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13692-13711 totaling \$7,138.85, Central Treasury Cafeteria Account checks #5194-5213 totaling \$114,788.10, and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #11896-11924 totaling \$10,266.17. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Cafeteria, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$425,401.92. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: 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, Kathleen Warchol, and Peggy Wolf.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**Mrs. April Messenger**, 3504 Ritner Highway, Newville, PA, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and indicated that 87 Grade 4 and Grade 5 elementary school students participated in an hour-long "girls night out" wellness program at Oak Flat Elementary School recently. The students learned about nutrition and body image. Mrs. Messenger commended Danielle Bingaman, school counselor, for doing a great job organizing and securing donations for the event.

In other wellness news, Mrs. Messenger indicated that 15 to 20 adult women, including teachers, have been participating in 45-minute Zumba exercise sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays

In addition, Mrs. Messenger indicated that teachers are working hard to help students perform well in the upcoming PSSAs.

President Wolf thanked Mrs. Messenger for her comments this evening.

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**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-6,  
following Item A-6.)**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

- 1. Mr. William Clayton** was recommended to serve as a full-time evening custodian at the high school, replacing Mr. Richard Zimmerman. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Clayton to serve as a full-time evening custodian at the High School.

- 2. 2009-2010 Additional Bus Driver for Deitch Busing** **(ACTION ITEM)**

**Ms. Wendy Beitler**

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

- 3. Mrs. Dianne Bollinger**, middle school family and consumer science teacher, submitted her letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement. **(ACTION ITEM)**

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Bollinger's resignation for the purpose of retirement as middle school family and consumer science teacher, effective the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

- 4. Approval of Family and Medical Leave for Aaron Knapp** **(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Aaron Knapp, high school science teacher, requested leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) due to the adoption of a child. He has requested two weeks of leave during the month of April, 2010. Mr. Knapp intends to return to his teaching position after the two weeks of his leave.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Aaron Knapp's request for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act for two weeks during the month of April 2010, as presented.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS** (Continued)

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS** (Continued)

**(ACTION ITEM)**

5. **Ms. Jillian Schreffler**, middle school teacher, requested one day leave without pay for April 1, 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. Schreffler's request for one day leave without pay as presented.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

6. **Mrs. Karen Showaker**, middle school teacher, requested one day of leave without pay, retroactive to March 1, 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. Showaker's request for one day of leave without pay as presented.

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

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Norris to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-6 through A-6, as outlined and recommended above.  
Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS** (Continued)

**B. Credit Pay**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The professional employee whose name is listed below has successfully completed graduate work and is entitled to the specified amounts in accordance with the negotiated contract.

**Suzanne Brazeau                      \$ 1,149.00**

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

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**C. Grant Application Request**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**Mr. Kevin Roberts**, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology, requested permission to pursue grant opportunities to assist with the after-school wellness classes and nutrition classes that have been established at the elementary schools. The request for other grant opportunities is due to the changes in the allocation of grant funds from the Carlisle Area Health and Wellness Foundation.

Information was included with the agenda.

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

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

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf.

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Upper Frankford Township Settlement and Release**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Business Office personnel have met with Upper Frankford tax collector and have prepared tax settlement data for District municipality. Copies of the Annual School Tax Report summaries were included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the Tax Collector Release form for Upper Frankford Township for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and authorize the administration to forward all delinquent accounts to the appropriate delinquent tax collector.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf.

Motion carried unanimously.

**E. Facilities Utilization Request**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Gary Wolf requested permission to use the high school parking lots from 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, July 18, 2010. Because the utilization date falls on Sunday, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Wolf's request to use the high school parking lot as presented.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

Mr. Fry indicated that no students are involved in this activity, and he added that no staff participation is necessary in the event. This is a standalone event. Mr. Fry indicated that this group provides the Corvettes that Big Spring uses for Homecoming, and he added that proceeds from the event support a spina bifida charity.

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

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**F. Resolution Urging PSERS Reform**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Resolution Urging PSERS Reform

The School District faces a 72% increase in PSERS employer contribution rate for 2010/2011 with sizable increases for the foreseeable future that are over 30%. Given the state of the economy and government revenue constraints, some type of fix is imperative for school districts to survive. The included resolution was drafted by PSBA and urges the General Assembly to immediately consider pension reform without specifying the actual components of the reform.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the included resolution urging legislative action of school employee pension reform.

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

**(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 were 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.

The District Improvement Committee will conduct a meeting on March 25, 2010, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. in the conference room at the District Administration Office.

**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.

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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### XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### 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

The CAIU continues to fine-tune the budget, working hard to keep costs contained.

### XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#### A. PSBA Pension Information

Mr. Fry encouraged Board members to review the PSBA pension information. The mandate waiver expires June 30, 2010.

Mr. Fry added that he would testify regarding the reauthorization of the Empowerment Act on April 9, 2010, before the Senate Education Committee at Widener University in Philadelphia.

#### B. Anything Goes

Superintendent Fry invited everyone to attend the musical Anything Goes on Thursday (7:30 P.M.), Friday (7:30 P.M.), and Saturday (2:00 and 7:30 P.M.), March 18, 19, and 20, 2010.

#### C. BAT Meeting

Mr. Fry indicated that a BAT meeting has not yet been scheduled for the Plainfield Elementary School project. A BAT meeting will be set up when the design is more complete.

#### D. Small Businesses and Local Contractors

Mr. Fry indicated that on April 5, 2010, at 6:00 P.M. he would meet with local contractors at West Pennsboro Township Firehall regarding bidding thresholds, prevailing wage requirements, and providing a voice in Harrisburg for small businesses and local contractors so they are “not locked out of the bidding process.” Mr. Fry indicated that he would speak on behalf of the District and inform the group of the constraints and boundaries that school districts are required to work within. Mr. Fry added that the group would like Districts to be able to seek mandate waivers for the prevailing wage.

#### E. Music In Our Schools

Superintendent Fry commended individuals involved at all three school levels for a “phenomenal” Music In Our Schools program..

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

**F. Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Fry indicated that he hosted focus discussion groups for the strategic plan process at the high school and Oak Flat Elementary School, and he indicated that he was pleased with the comments and input from students. Mr. Fry added that he walked away from the meetings with a "spring in his step," and he noted that, although we still have room for improvement, he believes the District is moving in the right direction.

The members of the Board of School Directors will be provided with copies of the information gathered at these discussion groups.

**XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**A. Happy Saint Patrick's Day!**

Director Barrick wished everyone a happy Saint Patrick's Day.

**B. Government Class Presentations**

Director Piper indicated that he enjoyed speaking with high school government classes to address the campaign process. Mr. Piper noted that this was not a campaign stop, and he added that he explained to the students the process involved with announcing one's candidacy and placing one's name on the election ballot. Mr. Piper reviewed with the students the rules and regulations set up by the Department of State and the Bureau of Elections. Mr. Piper added that the students were energetic and asked many questions.

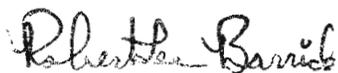
**XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

In response to a question from **Mr. Denny Clopper**, Mr. Fry indicated that Plainfield Elementary School is not included in the ClearChoice Energy program because that facility presently has no air conditioning and would have minimal impact on energy use during brownout/blackout conditions.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.



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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, April 6, 2010**