



Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2025

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1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Seth Cornman

The Policy Committee of the Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 6:13 pm with four (4) Committee Members present: Chairman Seth Cornman, Secretary Julie Boothe, David Fisher, and President John Wardle

Absent: No absences

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent; Cristy Lentz, Business Manager; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; Darin Baughman, Technology, and Donna Minnich, Board Minutes.

Motion to approve the rules of the day and meeting agenda by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 4-0

Public Comment – Nothing Offered

Policy Work:

Policy 903

Mr. Cornman said Policy 903 is pretty much ready to go except he is going to recommend 4 minutes of speaking rather than 5 based on his community conversations. Mr. Wardle said he agrees 4 is better than 5 and asked how we would handle having more requests than permitted by the maximum amount of time and Mr. Cornman said the Board could vote to extend comment time or schedule a special meeting to hear additional comments.

Motion to change Policy 903 by Mr. Cornman was seconded by Mrs. Boothe.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 4-0

Policy 903 (continued)

Motion by Mr. Cornman to send the revised Policy 903 to the Board was seconded by Mrs. Boothe.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 4-0

Policy 235

Motion by Mr. Cornman to table Policy 235 for additional solicitor review was seconded by Mr. Wardle.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 4-0

New Athletic Department Policy

Motion to allow creation of a draft athletic policy for guiderails for the athletic department by Mr. D. Fisher was seconded by Mrs. Boothe.

Mr. Wardle said we already have a detailed athletic handbook and Mr. Cornman said they are rules and not policy and said he would like to see policy to further define and establish athletic rules that could only be changed by the Board.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 4-0

Policy 105.1

Mr. Corman expressed a desire to modernize policy 105.1 and Mr. Wardle asked if the intention is for the entire curriculum to be in place on day one and expressed concern that may not be realistic and suggested flexibility be permitted. Mr. Cornman said he would like the policy to be adaptable to current events and other factors.

Mrs. Boothe said she doesn't want to see conditions in the policy such as limiting one request per semester and said it would be helpful for us to offer curriculum resources in a more organized way and not limit parent access.

The Committee continued to discuss ideas and options with a desire for easier and more thorough parental access. Mr. Cornman asked for a committee volunteer to research policies in other districts and Mrs. Boothe volunteered to do the research.

Motion by Mr. Cornman to allow policy committee members to research and set goals to have available for the next meeting to create an updated policy from the suggestions was seconded by Mrs. Boothe.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 4-0

Information Items

Bullying Policy – Review and Strengthen

Policy on Anti-bullying Team

Mr. Cornman asked for suggestions and comments for future discussion of the two informational items.

Community Comment – Nothing Offered

Member Closing Statements

Mr. Wardle thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked the committee for their work.

Mrs. Boothe said Policies 706 and 818 on the website still have incorrect dates which are typos from past years. She also said there are policies to be reviewed annually and others every 3 years and we need to address those issues. She mentioned a PSBA article on parental rights in the classroom and expressed a desire for rules to address teachers going off curriculum in the classroom and said there should be training on what can and cannot be said in the classroom which she said is extremely important for us to consider.

Mr. Cornman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said we are trying to update and modernize all the policies which will be a slow process. He said the administration will be bringing some policies directly to the Board and he looks forward to seeing those policies which have been reviewed by the solicitor.

2. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 4-0

Meeting adjourned at **6:38 pm**

