

Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Board Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023



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1. Opening Meeting: Call to Order/Pledge - President John Wardle

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 8:01 pm with nine (9) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Richard Roush, William Swanson, and Donna Webster

Absent: No absences

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Interim Assistant Superintendent; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Gareth Pahowka, Solicitor; Donna Minnich, Board Minutes; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; and Darin Baughman, Technology Support.

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

President Wardle welcomed Dr. Nicholas Guarente to the meeting and stated the Board looks forward to working with him.

President Wardle announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to the start of the regular Board Meeting this evening to consult with the Solicitor regarding updates on the litigation against the District. Specifically, the Board will be discussed the Flynn/Reinford cases pending against the District in both federal and state court.

- 2. Student/Staff Recognition and Board Reports** - Cailin Spies provided a student activity report and updates to the Board
- 3. Reading of Correspondence** – Nothing Offered
- 4. Recognition of Visitors** - 26 Visitors signed-in for the meeting
- 5. Public Comment Period** – Nothing Offered

Laura Mackey asked about the leave request dates in item 9a of the Agenda and Mr. Wardle confirmed the March dates are correct as noted.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the [Finance Committee](#), [Committee of the Whole](#) and [Board Meeting Minutes](#) for March 20, 2023 as presented?

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

7. Financial Reports

7.a. Payment of Bills

General Fund

Procurement Card	\$	24,552.68
Checks/ACH/Wires	\$	4,427,180.09
Special Revenue	\$	781.74
Capital Projects Reserve Fund	\$	7,875.00
Cafeteria Fund	\$	-
Student Activities	\$	22,911.91
Total	\$	4,483,301.42

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Deihl

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

8. Old Business – Nothing Offered

9. New Business Personnel Items - Actions Items

Unless there is an objection, we will combine all New Business Personnel Items listed under #9 into one motion.

9.a. Recommended Approval of Leave Requests

- Alison Brown, Middle School Teacher, is requesting a half day of leave without pay on April 28, 2023.
- Jennifer Gregoris, Middle School Teacher, is requesting a day of leave without pay on March 20, 2023.
- Molly Kordes, Mount Rock Teacher, is requesting a day of leave without pay on March 21, 2023.
- Courtney Rickabaugh, High School Teacher, is requesting leave without pay for a half day on March 30, 2023 and a full day on March 31, 2023.
- Theresa Stum, Oak Flat Paraprofessional, is requesting a day of leave without pay on March 22, March 29, and March 30, 2023.
- John Weller, Mount Rock Custodian, is requesting a day of leave without pay on March 16, 2023.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the leave requests as presented.

9.b. Recommended Approval of Staff Resignation

Dr. Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent, received the following professional staff resignation:

- Brianna Henderson, Speech and Language Clinician, has provided a letter of resignation effective July 2, 2023.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the resignation as presented.

9.c. Recommended Approval of Athletic Volunteers

Mr. Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, recommends the following:

- Anthony Aragones to serve as a volunteer for the Softball Program.
- Jeremy Paisley to serve as a volunteer for the Softball Program.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the volunteers as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush to combine New Business Personnel Items 9 (a) through 9 (c) into one motion

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10. New Business - Actions Items

10.a. Credit Pay

The professional employees whose names are listed below have successfully completed graduate work and are entitled to the specified amount in accordance with the current contract between the Big Spring Educational Association, the Act 93 Agreement, and the Big Spring School District.

Denise Hocker	\$4,905.00
Rebecca Whigham	\$1,545.00

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors authorize reimbursement for graduate credits as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.b. Recommended Approval of a Fundraiser

Mr. Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, recommends the following fundraiser:

- Chicken BBQ and Car Wash to benefit the Boys Soccer Program and Tempus LEO Club - April 22, 2023

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the fundraiser as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.c. Recommended Approval of a Field Trip

Middle School Principal, Clarissa Nace, is requesting approval of the following field trip:

- Mrs. Whigham's Environmental Club to Pine Grove Furnace State Park on May 23, 2023.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the field trip request as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.d. Recommended Approval of Agreement with Assist Services, LLC

As presented at the Committee of the Whole on February 21, 2023, Assist Services, LLC provides transportation for students outside District borders required by the Public School Code to be transported by the Big Spring School District.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the [Assist Services, LLC Agreement](#).

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.e. Recommended Approval of the Wellness Program MOU

The District's wellness vendor is changing our Wellness Plan dates as outlined below. Because the original dates are listed in the CBA, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required.

Current Plan Dates: May 16th – May 15th

New Plan Dates: June 1st – May 31st

School Year 2022/23 – May 16, 2022 through May 15, 2023 – Wellness HSA payout in July 2023 – 12 months – current year, no dates affected.

School Year 2023/24 – May 16, 2023 through May 31, 2024 – Wellness HSA payout in July 2024 – 12.5 months

School Year 2024/25 – June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025 – Wellness HSA payout in July 2025 – 12 months

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the Wellness MOU.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.f. Recommended Approval of Capital Project Fund Payments

The following invoices are for payment within the Capital Project Fund:

- Trane - \$6,087.00 - Invoice 313435377 - Control Project
- Trane - \$70,252.00 - Invoice 313439437 - Camera System Project
- El Associates - \$1,000 - Invoice P10000015347 - Feasibility Study

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the invoices to be paid from the Capital Reserve Project Fund.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.g. Recommended Approval of Utilization Request

- Nate Gutshall, on behalf of Big Spring Wrestling, is requesting the use of the High School Commons on April 23, 2023. Because the date is a Sunday, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the utilization request as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Voting No: Piper

Motion Carried. 8-1

11. New Business - Information Item – Nothing Offered

12. Board Reports

12.a. District Improvement Committee - Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Webster – Mr. Fisher stated the next meeting is on April 20, 2023 in the District Office Board Room and he hopes people will come out.

12.b. Athletic Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Myers, and Mr. Wardle – Mr. Deihl said the next meeting is May 17, 2023

12.c. Cumberland Perry Area CTC - Mr. Piper and Mr. Wardle – Mr. Piper stated the next meeting is April 24 and students are busy preparing for their written and performance NOCTI Testing.

12.d. Building and Property Committee - Over, Piper, Roush, and Wardle – Mr. Over said the next meeting is May 1, 2023

12.e. Finance Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Over, Mr. Piper, and Mr. Myers – Mr. Deihl said the next meeting is April 17, 2023

12.f. South Central Trust - Mr. Deihl – Mr. Deihl said the next meeting is tomorrow morning.

12.g. Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Mr. Swanson – Mr. Swanson stated the last meeting was held on March 30 and [Board Highlights March](#) and [All In March](#) documents have been shared with the Board.

Board Reports (continued)

12.h. Tax Collection Committee - Mr. Swanson – Next Meeting will be in April.

12.i. Future Board Agenda Items – Nothing Offered

12.j. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Nicholas Guarente

Dr. Guarente thanked everyone for the warm welcome he received over the past week and said there are a lot of pieces that go into a successful school system and people are the number one piece. He also stated that If my first impression of Big Spring is any indication of the future, this place is made up of many wonderful people and I look forward to partnering with them to build an even better educational system.

Dr. Guarente stated the Lenfest Scholars Foundation has selected 6 Big Spring High School students as finalists, which is the highest amount ever for Big Spring.

13. Meeting Closing

13.a. Business from the Floor/Board Member Comment

Mr. Deihl stated the fields and facilities and everything is looking really good and are top notch.

Mr. Myers said welcome Dr. Guarente to his first official Board Meeting and said it is great to see him back for a second week on the job.

Mr. Wardle thanked everyone in attendance for joining us and also those who will view the meeting after it is posted online.

13.b. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Meeting adjourned at **8:19 pm, April 3, 2023**

Next scheduled meeting is **April 17, 2023**



Please Note:

The **June 5 and June 19, 2023** Board Meetings will be held in the High School Auditorium as well as the **July and August** Board Meetings because of summer work at the Middle School.