

# Big Spring School District

## Newville, Pennsylvania

### Board Meeting Minutes

#### April 8, 2024



*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 Mt. Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241, at (717) 776-2412.*

---

#### **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 7:30 pm with nine (9) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Julie Boothe, Secretary; Seth Cornman, David Fisher, Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, and Lisa Shade.

Absent:

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Michael Statler, Business Manager; 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 announced the Board met in Executive Session this evening prior to the Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss legal updates pertaining to the pending law suits.

#### **2. Student/Staff Recognition and Board Reports** – Newville Elementary staff Heather Keller, Danielle Teter, and Lauren Swigart shared school and staff updates with the Board.

#### **3. Reading of Correspondence** – Nothing Offered

#### **4. Recognition of Visitors** - 65 visitors signed-in for the meeting

#### **5. Public Comment Period**

Lawrence Flynn provided comments regarding passive versus active consent and encouraged Board Members to vote yes for the policy proposed in agenda item 10f for active parental consent. He also said Mrs. Powell's presentation was awesome and he is proud that our school offers career opportunities. Kate Elkins offered comments of support for approval of the YWCA services who she said have a long history of protecting students from bullying and abuse and promoting acceptance. She said we should trust school employees to provide what is best for students and encouraged the Board to vote to approve the YWCA services which were requested by school personnel to address student needs.

Caroline Byers offered comments of support for the YWCA and Domestic Violence services which are helpful to prevent bullying from happening in our schools and encouraged Board Members to be mindful of all students and not limit or take away opportunities by an opt-in policy for student participation in these trusted programs.

## 5. Public Comment Period (continued)

Jon Reinford offered comments of concern for the proposed science curriculum in agenda item 10a and asked the Board to keep it out of Big Spring School District because he believes critical race theory would be taught and asked the Board to research this.

Arlene Reinford said she personally visited hundreds of homes and said parents want to make the decisions for their children and do not want passive consent. She also asked why the Board allowed Mr. Shover to handpick the student representative and reminded the Board of the pending lawsuit. Mr. Cornman responded and said the Board requested the high school principal appoint the student representative.

Adam Oldham offered comments regarding the Lost Sheep Committee Meeting and said the meeting was civil and he felt seen and his comments heard by the committee. He said a school community only exists as a group effort and it is important for everyone to work together in good faith to make the dreams of our students worth having and not to be a nightmare. He said he never wants to make assumptions about people and encouraged everyone to agree to work together to find common ground.

## 6. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the [Finance Committee](#), [Committee of the Whole](#) and [Board Meeting](#) Minutes for March 18, 2024 as presented?

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

## 7. Old Business – Nothing Offered

## 8. New Business Personnel Items - Actions Items

Unless there is an objection, we will combine all New Business Personnel Action Items listed under #8 into one motion.

### 8.a. Recommended Approval of Leave Without Pay

Section 6.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave." Superintendent Dr. Nicholas Guarente received requests for leave without pay from the following employees:

- Allison Baer, Mount Rock Elementary Administrative Assistant, requesting a half day of leave without pay on March 21, 2024.
- Riley Brown, High School Business Teacher, requesting a half day of leave without pay on March 26, 2024.
- Courtney Rickabaugh, High School English Teacher, requesting leave without pay on March 19, 20, and March 27, 2024.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the leave without pay requests as presented.

#### **8.b. Recommended Approval of Transfer for Professional Staff**

The administration will transfer the professional staff listed below for the 2024-2025 school year. These transfers are in accordance with Board Policy 309, Assignment and Transfer.

- Kristen Boles from School Counselor at Newville Elementary to School Counselor at the Middle School to replace Anne Fulker who is retiring.
- Luke Nerone from Middle School Grade 6 to High School Distance Learning Coordinator to replace Wendy Hanks who is retiring.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the professional staff transfers for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

#### **8.c. Recommended Approval of Administrative Assistants**

The administration recommends Mollie Varner as a 190-day Administrative Assistant for Newville Elementary School, replacing Mary Beidel who retired. Ms. Varner will work 7.5 hours per day at the H 11 step of the 2023-2024 Classified Compensation Plan. This hire is subject to the Probationary Period as spelled out in the Classified Compensation Plan. Employment is pending receipt of all required employment documentation.

The administration recommends Brandie Snyder as a 190-day Administrative Assistant to the Principal for Mount Rock Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year, replacing Cheryl Nealy who will be retiring. Ms. Snyder will work 7.5 hours per day at the G 2 step of the 2024-2025 Classified Compensation Plan. This hire is subject to the Probationary Period as spelled out in the Classified Compensation Plan. Employment is pending receipt of all required employment documentation.

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

#### **8.d. Recommended Approval of a Middle School Science Teacher - Ava Duncan**

##### **Education:**

Shippensburg University - Environmental Sustainability/Conservation - Bachelor's Degree

Wilson College - Earth and Space Science Teaching Certification (pending - May 2024)

##### **Experience:**

Greencastle-Antrim School District Honors Environmental Science - Student Teacher

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors appoint **Ava Duncan** to the position of Middle School 7th Grade Science Teacher replacing Julie Thumma who is retiring. The compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's Degree step 1, \$60,229.00 for the 2024-2025 school year, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District. Employment is pending receipt of all required employment documentation and teaching certification.

**8.e. Recommended Approval of Resignation**

Superintendent Dr. Nicholas Guarente received the following resignation:

- Luke Nerone provided a letter of resignation from the extra-duty position of Middle School After-School Club Advisor effective May 31, 2024.

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

**8.f. Recommended Approval of a High School Technology Education Teacher - Aleia Baker**

**Education:**

Millersville University - Technology and Engineering Education - Bachelor's Degree (pending May, 2024)

**Experience:**

Conestoga Valley High School - Graphic Technology - Student Teacher

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors appoint **Aleia Baker** to the position of High School Technology Education Teacher replacing Anthony Casella who resigned. The compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's Degree step 1, \$58,354.00 for the 2023-2024 school year, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District. Employment is pending receipt of all required employment documentation and teaching certification.

**8.g. Recommended Approval of Extra Duty Positions**

Based on the provisions of the Teacher Induction Program, each teacher new to a school district or building is assigned a mentor teacher. As per the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Big Spring School District and the Big Spring Education Association, individual mentor teachers receive an Extra Duty Stipend. Dr. Nadine Sanders recommends the following mentors:

Inductee	Building/Position	Mentor
Aleia Baker	High School Technology Education	J. Sam Barnouski
Ava Duncan	Middle School Science	Kyna Morgan

High School Principal, Jason Shover, recommends the following for an extra-duty position:

- J. Sam Barnouski to serve as High School National Technical Honor Society Advisor replacing Anthony Casella who resigned.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the extra duty positions as presented.

**8.h. Recommended Approval of the 2024 Summer Hire List**

Ms. Cheri Frank, Director of Custodial Services, would like to recommend the 2024 Summer Hire List for the District's Custodial Staff:

Michelle	Adams
Leah	Bear
Marshall	Clarke
Shawn	Devonald
Parker	Drawbaugh
Cathy	Hair
Evan	Header
Kimberly	Krause
Kye	Lafrance
Bailey	Martin
Alma	Mixell
Bishnu	Rai
Ayden	Saville
Ken	Sunday
Maria	Tandle
Deb	Tubbs
John	Weller
Russell	White

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the 2024 summer custodial hire list as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman to combine and approve all items in New Business Personnel Action Items 8 (a) through 8 (h) as outlined and recommended above.  
Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle  
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

**9. New Business - Actions Items**

**9.a. Recommended Approval for Cumberland County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale**

The property at [7 Mountain View Terrace](#) was offered for sale on November 10, 2023 and no bids were received. The Tax Claim Bureau is requesting the Board of School Directors of the Big Spring School District prove its consent to the sale of the property at 7 Mountain View Terrace, Newville, for the repository bid price of \$500. The property will then be brought back into tax generating status.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the sale of referenced property at the proposed bid price of \$500.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade  
Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle  
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.b. Recommended Approval of ESS Addendum**

Dr. Abigail Leonard and Dr. Nadine Sanders have reviewed the [Addendum](#) with ESS Support Services, LLC to establish the hourly rate of compensation for MDS Paraprofessional Substitutes.

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

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.c. Recommended Approval of Utilization Request**

- Chris Barrick, on behalf of Big Spring Boys Wrestling, is requesting use of the High School Commons and Auditorium on April 21, 2024 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Because the date involves a Sunday, Board action is necessary.

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

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.d. Recommended Approval of FBLA Funding**

The High School Principal, Jason Shover, is requesting funding from the general fund for the FBLA chapter. The District kicked off a local FBLA chapter this year and had a lot of student interest in its short tenure. The proposal would be to invest \$2,500 into the club. An additional \$4,000 would be provided to the club, which would be reimbursed by the FBLA club by June 30, 2025.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the transfer of \$2,500 from the general fund to the student activities club and a \$4,000 loan to help support the club for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.e. Recommended Approval of the Capital Projects Fund Payment**

The following invoice is for payment within the Capital Project Fund:

- Trane - District Access Control Project - [314246116](#) - \$10,675.80

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

#### **9.e. Recommended Approval of the Capital Projects Fund Payment (continued)**

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.f. Recommended Approval of Fundraiser**

Mr. Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, is recommending approval of the following 2023-2024 fundraiser:

- [The Italian Taxi Company](#) Fundraiser April 15 - 26 with delivery on May 9, 2024 to benefit Dawg Pound, MS/HS Soccer and Tempus Leo Club.

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

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.g. Recommended Approval of the 2023-2024 Engagement Letter with Smith Elliott Kearns and Company**

The District has been working with Smith, Elliott, Kearns and Company (SEK) for the past four years to perform our local audit, including the Single Audit. [Here](#) is the engagement letter for the 2023-2024 audit.

The administration recommends the approval of the 2023-2024 engagement letter with SEK to perform the annual audit.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.h. Request to Apply for a Grant**

Mrs. Clarissa Nace, Middle School Principal, received a request from the following teacher to apply for a grant:

- Jenna McIntire, Middle School Ag Teacher, is requesting permission to apply for the 2024-2025 PA Council of Trout Unlimited [Trout in the Classroom Grant](#).

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. McIntire's request to apply for and participate in the grant as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.i. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - Parking Lot Repave and Repair**

The District received quotes for the parking lots to be repaved and repaired where needed. DB Krieg was the most competitive price at \$196,685 for all parking lots. The original budget for the project was \$307,000. Due to the ESCO projects at both the High School and Mount Rock, the District will be postponing the parking lot repave and repair at these locations. The price for the Middle School, Newville ES, and Oak Flat ES is a total of \$100,055.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve [DB Krieg](#) to complete parking lot repaving and repairs at the Middle School, Newville, and Oak Flat, to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.j. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - High School Carpet Replacement**

The District received three quotes for carpet as well as a quote for VCT flooring.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve [Custom Cut Flooring](#) to replace the High School Library floor, to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.k. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - High School Pool Deck Replacement**

The [Keystone Purchasing Network](#) has submitted a proposal to complete the High School Pool Deck. The proposal is to grind the existing tile and to apply epoxy on top. The proposal includes any necessary repairs of the existing foundation below the tile. The total not to exceed cost is \$127,704.40. The cost might be lower, if less than expected repairs need to be done on the existing tile.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the proposal as presented, to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Mr. Hippensteel asked about the starting blocks being moved off the bridge and if there were any discussions with the flooring company about that. Dr. Guarente said that is still under discussion and approval of this item would be doing the work as is which may need to be modified but any fluctuation in cost would come back to the Board.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0



### **9.l. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - Indoor Pool Renovations - Bulldog Design on the Pool Wall**

Per the School Board's request, [Keystone Purchasing Network](#) completed a proposal for a number of miscellaneous pool renovations.

Bulldog 8x8 Design on the Pool Wall.

Approval for the Keystone Purchasing Network to place an 8x8 Bulldog on the pool wall, to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund.

Motion by Mr. Cornman was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Mr. Over stated the cost of this is too much.

Voting Yes: Boothe, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Myers, Shade, and Wardle

Voting No: Mr. Over, Mr. Hippensteel, and Mr. Cornman

Motion Carried. 6-3

### **9.m. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - Indoor Pool Renovations - Depth Markers**

Per the School Board's request, [Keystone Purchasing Network](#) completed a proposal for a number of miscellaneous pool renovations.

Depth Markers

Approval for the Keystone Purchasing Network to place depth markers, to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund.

Motion by Mr. Cornman was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Mr. Hippensteel asked if these are the markings on the floor which originally were to be stickers but this would be for painted markers and Dr. Guarente confirmed that is correct.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

### **9.n. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - Indoor Pool Renovations - Paint Markings**

Per the School Board's request, [Keystone Purchasing Network](#) completed a proposal for a number of miscellaneous pool renovations.

Paint Markers

Approval for the Keystone Purchasing Network to place paint markers, to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund.

Motion by Mr. Cornman was seconded by Mr. K. Fisher

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.o. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - Indoor Pool Renovations - Pool Prep and Painting**

Per the School Board's request, [Keystone Purchasing Network](#) completed a proposal for a number of miscellaneous pool renovations.

Pool Prep and Painting

Approval for the Keystone Purchasing Network to prep and paint the inside of the pool, to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund.

Motion by Mr. Cornman was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.p. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - Safety and Security Upgrades**

Administration received a proposal for district-wide Safety and Security Upgrades to be completed by Trane U.S. Inc.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve Trane U.S. Inc. to perform district-wide safety and security upgrades to be paid from the Capital Project Reserve Fund.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Mr. Hippensteel asked if this is to replace anything existing and Dr. Guarente stated this does not presently exist and would provide another layer of protection to what we currently possess. Mr. Hippensteel asked what the advantage is and Dr. Guarente said it would provide additional security across the District.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.q. Recommended Approval of Capital Projects - District Servers and Storage**

The District received [quotes](#) from [Prismworks](#) through the PEPPM technology purchasing cooperative for servers and a storage area network appliance to replace equipment approaching end of life.

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

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Over

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.r. Recommended Approval of CPACTC Resolution, Lease, Sublease, and Authority Termination Certificate**

In connection with the capital improvements being undertaken at the Cumberland Perry Area Career and Technical Center, a [Lease Explanation Letter](#), School District [Resolution](#), [Lease](#) - Draft, [Sublease](#) - Draft, and [Authority Termination Certificate](#) have been provided for review and approval. The School District resolution authorizes the school board to sign the lease, sublease and authority termination certificate. The authority termination certificate is to officially terminate the authority that was incorporated on September 28, 1967. The incorporation had a 50 year life. In the upcoming months, there will be a new deed presented to the board.

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

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.s. Recommended Approval of a Non-Resident Student**

Holly Ambrass, mother of High School senior Jessica Lewis, is requesting permission for Jessica to continue to attend Big Spring High School for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and graduate with the class of 2024, per the conditions outlined in Board Policy 202.1. The parents/guardians are required to provide the necessary transportation to and from school.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Ambrass' request for Jessica Lewis to attend Big Spring High School for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and graduate with the class of 2024 (if eligible) as per the conditions outlined in Board Policy.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Shade

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.t. Recommended Approval of YWCA**

The YWCA Carlisle and Cumberland County offers resources and support to the Big Spring School District with educational prevention programs and has provided a [2023-2024 Parent Consent Letter](#) and [2024-2025 Parent Consent Letter](#):

- Primary Prevention - Session 1 [Kindergarten](#)
- Primary Prevention - Session 1 [First Grade](#)
- Primary Prevention - Session 1 [Second Grade](#)
- Primary Prevention - Session 2 [Kindergarten](#)
- Primary Prevention - Session 2 [First Grade](#)
- Primary Prevention - Session 2 [Second Grade](#)

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the YWCA Primary Prevention Session 1 and 2 as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mrs. Boothe

#### **9.t. Recommended Approval of YWCA (continued)**

Mrs. Shade stated she really likes the parent letter but asked what happens if parents do not return the signed permission form and Dr. Guarente said the student would not participate.

Mr. Cornman thanked the YWCA for providing the requested information and consent letter and said he is pretty sure we will have a better partnership going forward.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle  
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

#### **9.u. Recommend Approval of Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties**

[Domestic Violence Services](#) of Cumberland and Perry Counties offer [resources](#) and support to the Big Spring School District with educational prevention programs.

- [Parent Letter](#)

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Myers

Mrs. Shade asked if a parent does not sign and return the form does that mean no student participation and Dr. Guarente said that is correct.

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle  
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

### **10. New Business - Information Item**

#### **10.a. Recommendation for New Curricular Resources**

Listed below are curricular resources recommended by Mrs. Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, for Board approval at the April 22, 2024 Board Meeting. All resources are available from the link included below for review by the Board of School Directors.

- K-12 Science Curricular Resource - [OpenSciEd](#)

#### **10.b. Leave Requests**

Frank Landis, Middle School Social Studies Teacher, requested leave through approximately Tuesday, April 16, 2024 which will continue through approximately Friday, April 26, 2024 with a new return date of Monday, April 29, 2024. According to Family and Medical Leave Policy 335 administrative, professional and support employees may request leaves of absence for specific family and medical issues in compliance with the Family Medical Leave Act.

#### **10.b. Leave Requests (continued)**

Keith Lavala, Middle School Teacher, is requesting a leave of absence beginning Monday, April 8, 2024 through approximately Thursday, April 18, 2024 with a return date of Friday, April 19, 2024. According to Family and Medical Leave Policy 335, administrative, professional and support staff employees may request leave of absence for specific family and medical issues in compliance with the Family Medical Leave Act.

Emily Moyer, Elementary Teacher, is requesting a child-rearing leave of absence beginning Tuesday, September 3, 2024 through approximately Monday, November 4, 2024 with a return date of Tuesday, November 5, 2024. According to Section 6.07 of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the District, a professional employee may request up to one year of child-rearing leave upon the birth of a child. In addition to the duration of the leave period, the request meets all provisions for child-rearing leave according to the current contract.

#### **10.c. CAIU 2024 Annual Election Ballot**

Each Board Member will receive a printed copy of the 2024 CAIU Annual Election Ballot on April 8, 2024 which must be signed and returned to Donna Minnich by noon on Thursday, June 13, 2024 to participate in the voting process.

#### **10.d. ESS Staff Information**

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, provides the following ESS staff update:

- Devon Alsvary to serve as a full-time Principal's Discretion Paraprofessional at Mount Rock Elementary School.
- Judy Brehm to serve as a full-time specialist Paraprofessional at Oak Flat Elementary School replacing Kelsey Carbaugh who resigned.
- Kaden Cornman to serve as a full-time specialist Paraprofessional at Oak Flat Elementary School effective April 9, 2024.
- Micah Peairs to serve as full-time Paraprofessional at the Middle School.
- Susan Sheeler to serve as Principal's Discretion Paraprofessional at Newville Elementary School effective April 10, 2024 replacing Martha Mutterspaugh who resigned.

#### **10.e. Proposed Updated Policies**

The administration has proposed the updated policies listed below:

- [Policy 236.1](#) Threat Assessment
- [Policy 800](#) Records Retention
- [Policy 827](#) Conflict of Interest

After the policies have been reviewed by the Board of School Directors, the administration will present the updated policies for Board approval at the April 22, 2024 Board meeting.

## **10.f. Proposed Updated Policy**

Mrs. Lisa Shade has proposed the updated policy listed below:

- [Policy 235](#) Student Rights-Surveys

After the policy has been reviewed by the Board of School Directors, the updated policy will be presented for consideration at the April 22, 2024 Board meeting.

## **10.g. Student School Board Representative**

High School Principal, Jason Shover, recommends a Student Representative to the Board:

- Caleb Tilden to serve as Student Representative to the Board for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and the 2024-2025 school year.

## **11. Board Reports**

### **11.a. Athletic Council - Ken Fisher, Mike Hippensteel, Frank Myers, and John Wardle**

Mr. Fisher said at the April 3 Council Meeting, Mr. Penner said the first ever state basketball game hosted by Big Spring was a success and our staff was complimented on their hospitality which shows how great our School District is. He also said Big Spring and Dickinson College submitted a bid to host the next round of NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships for 2026 and 2027.

### **11.b. Building and Property Committee - David Fisher, Mike Hippensteel, Robert Over, and John Wardle**

Nothing Offered

### **11.c. Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Seth Cornman**

[CAIU](#) Meeting Dates: Apr 25, 2024   May 23, 2024   June 27, 2024   [All-In](#)

Mr. Cornman said the CAIU is in the process of voting for their Board reorganization.

### **11.d. Cumberland Perry Area CTC - John Wardle**

Mr. Wardle said the CTC held a Zoom Meeting to discuss and approve the financing documents we will be signing this evening. He said bids are going out in April for the building project and hope to have them back by June to move forward. He said award ceremonies are coming up, they are selecting students for the next school year, and said Big Spring has roughly 140 students at Cumberland Perry participating and said it is a competitive process to be accepted into the program so he wished our students luck.

### **11.e. Finance Committee - Julie Boothe, Frank Myers, Robert Over, and Lisa Shade**

Mrs. Boothe said the next meeting will be April 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

### **11.f. Future Ready Comp Plan Board Reps - Ken Fisher and Lisa Shade**

Mrs. Shade said FRCPP met on April 4 to review the 3-year plan covering 2024 – 2027 which started with an optimistic opening where each person shared a Big Spring celebration. They reviewed the cycle of improvement chart then split into 3 groups for discussion to focus on what metrics they could be using to measure their goals. Goal #1 academic growth, Goal #2 engagement, and Goal #3 wellbeing. The group reviewed the District action steps and the details of the federal programs. The plan will be posted on May 1 for a 28-day review and will be included on the June 3 agenda for Board review and approval.

**11.g. Operation Lost Sheep Committee - Julie Boothe, Chair (Seth Cornman, Lisa Shade, and 3 Community Members)**

[Operation Lost Sheep](#) Meeting Dates: May 2, 2024 - 7 pm in MS Room 514    May 30, 2024 - 7 pm in MS Room 514    Mrs. Boothe shared updates and [minutes](#) from the April 4, 2024 meeting.

Mrs. Boothe made a motion to add agenda items to change the name from Operation Lost Sheep Committee to Disenrollment Investigation and Grievance Committee at the April 22, 2024 meeting and also creation of a page on the District web page to include official language of Board approved charter, committee members and contact information, schedule of meetings and most recent updates as approved by the committee.

Motion to add Mrs. Boothe's agenda item recommendations to the April 22, 2024 agenda by Mrs. Shade was seconded by Mr. Cornman

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

**11.h. South Central Trust - Seth Cornman**

Mr. Cornman said there is a full Board Meeting April 24th at 3:00 PM via Zoom.

**11.i. Tax Collection Committee - David Fisher**

Nothing Offered

**11.j. Wellness Committee - Seth Cornman (District Administrator, District Food Service Rep, Student, Parent, School Health Professional, Physical Education Teacher and Member of the Public)**

Mr. Cornman said there will be an April 18 meeting at 3:00 pm at the District Office

**11.k. Future Board Agenda Items – Nothing Offered**

**11.l. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Nicholas Guarente**

Dr. Guarente said an administrator will be assigned to the Lost Sheep Committee but based on conversations, he did not believe an administrator was necessary for the first meeting and said he is working on cyber charter numbers to share with the Board for evaluation and analysis.

Dr. Guarente thanked the WYCA and Domestic Violence for their patience working through the approval process.

Dr. Guarente thanked Mrs. Powell for her career presentation this evening and said we are striving to make the K-12 experience relevant and authentic for our students. He said we want students to receive the necessary education for their career pathway and said kudos to Mrs. Powell and the High School Administration for facilitating that for students.

Dr. Guarente said he attended the High School and Middle School Music in Our Schools Month Concert which was wonderful and stated he is happy to report the Middle School Science Fair was a big hit and thanked Mrs. Boothe, Mr. Myers, and Mrs. Shade for participating and judging student entries.

### **11.I. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Nicholas Guarente (continued)**

Dr. Guarente said the Jazz Band performed at Jazz Fest at the Pollock Arts Center on April 6 and Chorus members performed at the Song Fest at Cocalico High School on April 6.

Dr. Guarente said Lincoln the therapy dog passed his tests and his handlers have passed their tests so we can continue to provide that resource to our students.

Dr. Guarente thanked the Newville Elementary staff for presenting this evening and all they do for our students.

## **12. Meeting Closing**

### **12.a. Business from the Floor/Board Member Comment**

Mr. Cornman thanked Mrs. Powell for a wonderful job presenting this evening and said the program is providing important experiences to help students in making the best career decisions of their lives. He also thanked Adam Oldham for his public comment and said he and his partner were a great representation of the School District.

Mr. Over said Newville Elementary School rocks and thanked them for being at the meeting.

Mr. Myers said he would like to echo what Mr. Cornman said and welcomed Caleb Tilden as student representative and said he was very observant and will be a nice addition.

Mrs. Shade thanked the administration for providing the early dismissal opportunity afforded to students this afternoon to watch and experience the eclipse and said she enjoyed the moment with her son.

Mrs. Boothe thanked people for speaking and making their thoughts known to the Board and said there is a lot happening behind the scenes that is not always fully visible. She said the desire is to restore and regain trust through transparency. She asked the Solicitor if policy changes should have a 30 day review period and Mr. Pahowka said typically it is 30 days but the important thing is for a review/comment period for the public and Board prior to a vote. Mrs. Boothe also stated some of the new policies under consideration have blanks with options to choose and Dr. Guarente said there will be conversations and a thorough policy for public review.

Mr. Wardle thanked everyone who came this evening and extended a special thanks to our teachers here this evening. He said we are working through some important discussions and changes which is good and said 2 months from today we will graduate our next set of seniors. President Wardle said every day we are giving experiences to our students, every day we are trying to make a difference, and every day we are trying to build our community better than it is today.



## **12.b. Adjournment**

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

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Meeting adjourned at **9:06 pm, April 8, 2024**

Next scheduled meeting is **April 22, 2024 at 7:30 pm**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie D. Boothe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'D'.