



BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MAY 19, 2025

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. Call to Order - President Wardle

The Finance Committee of the Big Spring Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 6:54 pm with nine (9) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Lisa Shade, Treasurer; Julie Boothe, Secretary; Melissa Bigler, Seth Cornman, David Fisher, Kenneth Fisher, and Frank Myers.

Absent: No absences

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

2. Public Comment – Nothing Offered

3. Presentation:

3.a. 2025-2026 Budget Update - Cristy Lentz

Mrs. Lentz provided a 2025-2026 Budget Update to the Board and reviewed the timeline required of the District for the budget process:

2025-2026 Budget Summary Update

Fund Balance Update

Homestead/Farmstead

Tax Scenarios – Outcome on Taxpayers

Budget Timeline

Mr. Wardle thanked Mrs. Lentz and said she has come up with a very good estimate of our revenue and expenses and we are coming up short of money. He said the Board makes fiscal decisions and will determine the level of stabilization but also needs to prepare for the future. He said we need a savings account to have something to work with to maintain and grow our current programs and said everything we do costs money.

Mrs. Shade mentioned the governor's proposed budget and said she believes we received 100% of the budget last year and Mr. Wardle said 100% plus was received but we won't know the actual numbers for next year until September most likely. Mrs. Lentz confirmed we would likely receive those numbers after we approve our budget.

Mrs. Boothe pointed out the budget summary page doesn't reflect the increase in property values and said we did in effect raise taxes because of the increased property values. Mrs. Boothe asked if the proposed budget cuts were from areas that were not being used and Mrs. Lentz said we reviewed the student services budget and looked at it on a more per student method to cut contingencies in that budget.

President Wardle said the Board needs to give Mrs. Lentz a recommendation so she can move forward and do her work.

Dr. Guarente said Mrs. Lentz did a wonderful job outlining the budget and we need to look at the short term and long term which affects district operations. He said salaries makeup 70% of our budget for personnel and we will negotiate future salaries next year. He described the hours spent discussing each budget item, said we want to stay between plus and minus 2% and want to stay on the plus side. Dr. Guarente said the budget is a value vision and reflection of past decisions which impact all decisions and said there isn't money stuffed away just in case. He said districts have had to shut down because of a lack of money when state money is delayed. Mrs. Lentz said a few years ago it was almost a full year until the state approved a budget and districts with fund balances were carried through but districts without had to borrow when the state budget wasn't settled.

4. Other Items – Nothing Offered

5. Adjournment

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

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Meeting adjourned at **7:24 pm**

