

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MAY 20, 2024



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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 5:30 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: No absences

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

2. **Presentation:**

2.a. FY25 Budget Update - Mike Statler, Business Manager

Mr. Statler presented information on the fiscal year 2025 budget:

Where to find Budget Information?

Where to find Budget Info Part II

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget

Budget Assumptions

Budget Concerns – Governor's Budget BEF

Homestead/Farmstead Credit History

Budget Overview

Revenues

Expenses

Department Budgets

Budget Timeline

Hot Water Heater Inspections

Insurance – WC, Property, General Liability, Crime, etc.

Mr. Wardle said flat funding is the first number in the presentation and Mr. Statler said this is basic education funding and special education could receive additional funds.

Mr. Wardle stated homeowners receive the homestead/farmstead credit but not renters or property owners if renting to others and Mr. Statler said that is correct. Mr. Hippensteel asked what the credit figure is based on and Mr. Statler said the value of the home doesn't matter – it is always the same credit amount.

Mrs. Shade asked YTD General Fund trends comparing this year to last year if we are trending toward the same excess of revenue and Mr. Statler said it is May and there is a lot of work to be done and ESSER dollars to spend which will require a deeper dive for that answer.

Mrs. Shade asked about the department budget 36% increase in special education which she said seems significant and Mr. Statler said New Story or River Rock could explain the jump and said Dr. Leonard made an adjustment but he could get a better answer to that question.

Mrs. Shade asked why real estate collection is through January 15 and Mr. Statler said that is the closeout date with tax collectors and then the County starts a collection process. He said we won't see anything else until August.

Mrs. Shade asked about PCCD 2023-2024 grants if there is official news on the mental health grant and how that is worked into revenue and budget. Mr. Statler said that is built into the 700 series revenue with expenses to offset for net neutral. Mrs. Shade asked if the grant is already in our budget and Mr. Statler responded yes.

Mr. Wardle asked if special education cyber funding still receives bills for April, May, and June and Mr. Statler said yes with a reconciliation in June based on the true ADM (average daily membership).

Mrs. Boothe asked a department budget question why some departments have 100 salary listed and other departments no salary lined out separately. Mr. Statler said 100 or 200 have some control by an administrator with overtime in as part of the budget and curriculum is professional development but athletics are controlled by contracts. Mrs. Boothe said custodial salaries are often included in utilization contracts where we allow organizations to use the building and they pay overtime fees for custodians. Mr. Statler said salaries for custodial services would be offset for rentals.

Mrs. Boothe asked where income from athletic rentals appear in the budget and Mr. Statler said it is in the budget under revenues. Mr. Hippensteel asked if the income goes into the athletic budget and Dr. Guarente said it goes to the general fund budget. Mr. Wardle said food stands that benefit a sport like cross country goes to the cross-country team.

Mrs. Boothe asked a question about an eliminated bus route and wondered if it was due to a decrease in student numbers but Mr. Statler said the route was eliminated because of a lack of drivers over the past 2 years so bus runs were combined for efficiency. Mrs. Boothe asked if any teaching positions were eliminated due to less students and Mr. Statler said no.

Mr. Hippensteel asked if the hot water heaters serviced by Aerco receive 1 or 2 inspections per year and Mr. Drawbaugh said the manual requires 2 inspections per year to change the igniter and flame sensor and also conduct an efficiency test. Mr. Hippensteel said the Aerco manual says after the initial startup, they suggest 12-month inspections and 24-month replacements. Mr. Drawbaugh said commercial grade parts are expensive and it makes sense to have them looked at but he could check with the representative. Mr. Drawbaugh also said the ultimate goal would be to replace the Aerco's and not have them put back in. Mr. Myers asked if they were still under warranty and Mr. Drawbaugh said no and also said they are inspected by our school insurer who is looking for a safety assurance.

President Wardle asked the Board if they want Mr. Drawbaugh to reach out to Aerco to check on the recommended number of inspections and a cost for servicing once a year and the consensus was yes.

3. Other Items – Nothing Offered

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Hippensteel was seconded by Mrs. Shade

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Meeting adjourned at **6:19 pm**

