

Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Board Meeting Minutes

July 10, 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 High School Auditorium at 8:00 pm with eight (8) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, William Swanson, and Donna Webster

Absent: Richard Roush

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Nadine Sanders, 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.

2. Student/Staff Recognition and Board Reports – Nothing Offered

President Wardle announced the Board held an executive session prior to the start of tonight's meeting to discuss legal matters pertaining to special education and ongoing litigation.

3. Reading of Correspondence – Nothing Offered

4. Recognition of Visitors - 10 visitors signed-in for the meeting

5. Public Comment Period - Kathy Livengood offered comments on curriculum and transparency.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the [Committee of the Whole](#) and [Board Meeting Minutes](#) for June 19, 2023 as presented?

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

7. Financial Reports

7.a. Payment of Bills

General Fund

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Procurement Card | \$ | 20,905.16 |
| Checks/ACH/Wires | \$ | 4,257,542.86 |
| Special Revenue | \$ | - |
| Capital Projects Reserve Fund | \$ | - |
| Cafeteria Fund | \$ | 173,175.98 |
| Student Activities | \$ | 52,580.25 |
| Total | \$ | 4,504,204.25 |

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Deihl

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

7.b. Treasurer's Fund Report

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| General Fund | \$ | 20,540,391.45 |
| Special Revenue Fund | \$ | 66,575.43 |
| Capital Project Reserve Fund | \$ | 10,108,054.02 |
| ESCO Fund | \$ | 8,691,026.46 |
| Cafeteria Fund | \$ | 919,069.11 |
| Student Activities | \$ | 227,111.58 |
| Total | \$ | 40,552,228.05 |

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Deihl

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

7.c. YTD General Fund Report and YTD Taxes

The administration prepared the YTD General Fund Report and the YTD Taxes for the Board. The General Fund report looks at our revenue and expenses for this year against the budget and compares those amounts to last year. The YTD Tax Summary shows the monthly collections and cumulative collections and compares that to the two previous years.

Mr. Wardle said the state budget has not been passed but could happen in August.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

8. Old Business – Nothing Offered

9. New Business Personnel Items - Actions Items

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

9.a. Recommended Year 2 Mentors for 2023-2024

Based on the provisions of the Teacher Induction Program, each teacher new to a school district or transfer of building assignment 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 a stipend. The recommended year 2 mentors for 2023-2024 are listed below:

| Inductee | Building/Subject | Year 2 Curriculum Mentor |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Riley Brown | High School Business | Cherie Powell |
| Gwyneth Forster | Oak Flat Special Education | Rebecca Coulson |
| Kendra Hoffman | Newville Kindergarten | Courtney Wiser |
| Valerie Kanc | Speech and Language | Jennifer Warner |
| Joseph Kucker | High School Social Studies | Lauren Hetrick |
| Natalee Piper | Middle School Special Education | Erin Zinn |

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the 2023-2024 year 2 mentor teachers as presented.

9.b. Recommended Approval of Resignations

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

- **Dakotah Miller** provided a letter of resignation from the position of District ESL Teacher effective August 8, 2023.

Cheri Frank, Director of Custodial Services, received a custodial staff resignation:

- **Marlin Rudy** resigned from the position of Middle School Custodian.

Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, received the following athletic staff resignations:

- **John Fetchkan** provided a letter of resignation from the position of Head Middle School Football Coach.
- **Allison Fry** provided a letter of resignation from the position of Assistant High School Girls Soccer Coach.

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

9.c. Recommended Approval of Leave Request

- Sharon Beatty, Middle School 6th Grade Teacher, is requesting a leave of absence to begin Thursday, August 17, 2023 through approximately Tuesday, October 31, 2023 with a return date of Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

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

9.d. Recommended Approval of Athletic Staff

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

- Christopher Barrick for the position of Head Boys Wrestling Coach and vacate all supporting positions.
- Heather Best for the position of Head Bocci Coach and vacate all supporting positions.
- Amy Davidson for the position of Head Girls Basketball Coach and vacate all supporting positions.
- Nathaniel Gutshall for the position of Head Girls Wrestling Coach and vacate all supporting positions.
- Bambi Henke for the position of Volunteer Coach for the Cheer Program.

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

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers to combine and approve New Business Personnel Items 9 (a) – (d), as outlined and recommended above.

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

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.

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| BrieAnn Arnsberger | \$3,756.00 |
| Madison Frick | \$1,878.00 |
| Denise Hocker | \$4,360.00 |
| Ellie Piper | \$3,762.00 |

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

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

10.b. Recommended Approval of New Curricular Resources

Listed below are new Curricular Resources recommended by Mrs. Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Resources:

- Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship: Elementary and Middle School K-8
- English Language Arts: Middle School Grades 6-8 - Publisher Amplify
- Into Reading: Elementary Grades 3-5 - Publisher Houghton Mifflin
- Common Lit 360: High School English I and English II

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the new curriculum resources for 2023-2024 as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

10.c. Recommended Approval of Capital Project Funds Payments

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

- Trane - \$22,465.80 - [Invoice #313677681](#) for Access Control Project
- Trane - \$5,483.00 - [Invoice #313677707](#) for Camera and Camera Control Project
- Prismworks - \$35,555 - [Invoice #14849](#) for HS Cabling Project
- Prismworks - \$66,670 - [Invoice #14850](#) for HS Cabling Project

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. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

10.d. Recommended Approval of ESCO Project Payments

The following invoices are for payment within the ESCO Project List:

- McClure Co - [Pay App #4](#) - \$933,820.70

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

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

10.e. Recommended Approval of Agreements

Mr. Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, has reviewed the [Ambulance Agreement](#) with Friendship Hose Company No. 1, Inc., for the 2023-2024 school year to provide services during home football games.

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, has reviewed the proposed 2023 - 2024 [Vista-District Classrooms Agreement](#). Vista provides educational services and support to students with intensive needs related to Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, reviewed the **Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU)** [Agreement for School-Age Education Services](#) for the 2023-2024 school year.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the 2023-2024 agreements as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

10.f. Recommended Approval of Varsity Ticket Pricing

Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, has provided a Varsity Ticket Pricing Update for the 2023-2024 school year approved by the Athletic Committee in May:

Big Spring is moving to \$5/adult and \$2/student for all events (changing from the \$2 adult and \$1 student for JH events) held in our High School (Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Wrestling, Boys and Girls Basketball) and Middle School Gyms (MS Girls Volleyball, MS Boys and Girls Basketball), Stadium (all levels of Football, some High School Boys and Girls Soccer games), and Natatorium (Swimming & Diving).

The athletic office offers the following passes:

- Student Pass - All students enrolled at Big Spring receive free entry into all home Big Spring athletic events. Student ID is required.
- Parent Pass – All in season student-athletes will receive two parent passes, which gives them free entry to all home athletic events at Big Spring during that season.
- Senior Citizen Pass – Any interested Big Spring resident who can prove age 65+ and residency can obtain a “Gold Card,” giving them free entry to all Big Spring athletic events.
- Bulldog Sponsor Pass – Businesses that sponsor at the highest level get two free passes for all home Big Spring athletic events.

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

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

10.g. Recommended Approval of Fundraisers

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

- Mystery House Plants through Sweet Blooms Floral Designs to benefit the Cheer Team Aug. 1 through Aug. 31, 2023.
- Popcorn by Poppinpopcorn.com to benefit the Cheer Team Sept. 1 through Sept. 29, 2023.
- Ice-Cream Pies through [Goose Bros. Ice-Cream](http://GooseBros.com) to benefit the Cheer Team Oct. 1 through Oct. 20, 2023.

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

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Myers

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

11. New Business - Information Item

11.a. New Story Tuition Agreements

New Story, LLC is a private licensed school within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that provides educational services to children with special education requirements. Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, has reviewed student tuition agreements for Big Spring students who will be attending New Story during the 2023-2024 school year.

11.b. Proposed Approval of Updated and New Curriculum

Listed below are the new and updated Curriculum recommended by Mrs. Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, for Board approval at the August 7, 2023 Board Meeting. All resources are available in the Curriculum Center for review by the Board of School Directors.

Elementary

- Elementary Library
- First Grade ELA Foundational Skills and Social Studies
- Kindergarten ELA Foundational Skills and Social Studies
- Second Grade ELA Foundational Skills and Social Studies

11.b. Proposed Approval of Updated and New Curriculum (continued)

Middle School

- Sixth Grade Health
- Sixth Grade STEM
- Sixth Grade English Language Arts
- Seventh Grade English Language Arts
- Eighth Grade English Language Arts
- 7th/8th Grade STEM Course A
- 7th/8th Grade STEM Course B
- 7th/8th Grade Health Course A
- Accelerated 7th/8th Grade Math (new)
- Business Course A - 6 C Experience (new)
- Keyboarding and Digital Citizenship (new)
- World Language Exploration Course A
- World Language Exploration Course B (new)

High School

- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- Drone Beginner
- Drone Intermediate
- English I
- English II
- English III (new)
- Healthy Relationships and Team Sports
- Metal Fabrication (new)
- Mental Health and Individual Lifetime Activities
- Personal Finance

12. Board Reports

12.a. District Improvement Committee - Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Webster - Nothing Offered

12.b. Athletic Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Myers, and Mr. Wardle - Nothing Offered

12.c. Cumberland Perry Area CTC - Mr. Piper and Mr. Wardle - Mr. Piper provided updates from the June 26 meeting including updates on the timeline for the building project and estimated costs and shared the Summer Academy was well attended by 100 teachers as well as principals.

12.d. Building and Property Committee - Mr. Over, Mr. Piper, Mr. Roush, and Mr. Wardle – Mr. Over stated the first meeting will be September 5, 2023.

12.e. Finance Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Over, Mr. Piper, and Mr. Myers – Mr. Diehl said the first meeting will be October 16, 2023.

12.f. South Central Trust - Mr. Deihl - Nothing Offered

12.g. Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Mr. Swanson - [Board Highlights](#) and [All-In June](#)

Mr. Swanson stated Board Highlights have been provided to Board Members and said the June meeting was lengthy. He shared details on an upcoming Golf Tournament at Cumberland Golf Course which Dr. Roberts is organizing to benefit children and stated there will not be a July meeting.

12.h. Tax Collection Committee - Mr. Swanson – Mr. Statler stated trends are good.

12.i. Future Board Agenda Items - Nothing Offered

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

Dr. Guarente extended a hearty welcome to Dr. Sanders who joined the team and now has a seat at the table and said they are ready to make positive progress on behalf of the District.

Dr. Guarente shared on June 13, sixteen middle school FFA students traveled to Penn State to compete at the State Convention with the Big Spring Team taking Second Place overall and Izzy Jones winning First Place at the state level competing against some high school students. He congratulated the team and Izzy on their accomplishments.

Dr. Guarente stated the Phase 1 ESCO Project is on course and on schedule and said there will be public presentations on the possibility of phase 2 in the coming months.

Dr. Guarente extended a very sincere congratulations to Sherisa Nailor who will represent both Big Spring and the PA Association of Agricultural Educators as the State President for the 23-24 school year which is quite an accomplishment and representation on behalf of our District.

13. Meeting Closing

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

Mr. Over stated he is glad Dr. Sanders is here with us.

Mr. Swanson and Mr. Myers also welcomed Dr. Sanders.

Mrs. Webster welcomed Dr. Sanders and reminded everyone to support our FFA students showing animals at the Shippensburg Fair and said bring your checkbooks to the livestock auction on July 29.

Mr. Wardle welcomed Dr. Sanders and said it is great to have our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in place well before the start of the school year to prepare for the future of our students.

13.b. Adjournment

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

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

Meeting adjourned at **8:22 pm, July 10, 2023**

Next scheduled meeting is **August 7, 2023** in the High School Auditorium.

William L. Piper