

# Big Spring School District

## Newville, Pennsylvania

### Board Meeting Minutes

#### September 9, 2024



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

Absent: No absences

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; 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

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

#### **4. Recognition of Visitors** - 73 visitors signed-in for the meeting

President Wardle announced a clarification has been added to the contract for school solicitor addressing the flat fee for meetings regardless of duration or travel.

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

Michael Deihl offered a prayer for students, staff, administration, School Board and our community.

Lisa Yinger offered comments of support for use of the term global citizen in the profile of a graduate and asked the Board to invest their time and efforts addressing the very real problems confronting our schools today.

Michael Fratantuono offered comments on the reference at the last meeting to a 1910 excerpt by Theodore Roosevelt and read from the 2017 national security strategies for the United States. He asked the Board for their rationale and justification for moving to a new solicitor.

Deborah Keen offered comments of concern for use of the term global citizenship and asked if we want a world without borders, if all cultures are equally good, and in the name of empathy, would we want to give up our right to free speech or assembly. She asked as global citizens, whose values do we uphold, who decides, and who enforces those decisions? She encouraged the Board to make sure what these words really mean.

Steve Ginter offered comments on global citizenship and shared examples of global students he encountered during his teaching career at Big Spring. He said some say global citizen and see a threat to American students turning them into citizens of some future world government. When he says global citizen, he sees American students who can succeed in a globe that extends beyond the borders of Cumberland County. He encouraged the Board to move on to more important matters.

Grace D'Alo offered comments on global citizenship and said veterans who served to stop Hitler would consider themselves global citizens. She said she finds it strange in the name of community, the Board is going outside the community to hire a solicitor and said that is not the community she knows.

Connor Line offered comments on the choice of a school solicitor and said it seems as though some members are taking a certain type of pleasure antagonizing members of the community. He said a non-controversial decision such as choosing a solicitor has turned into a political boondoggle.

Matt Soper offered comments on global citizen and said what is wrong being a global empathetic citizen? He asked how any good/decent person could object to the points listed on the profile of a graduate under that heading and said Lancaster Mennonite who is a well-respected K-12 Christian School includes global citizen in their graduate profile. He reminded the Board we should not pander to the few on the basis of fear and insecurity but instead do what is necessary to support our students, our amazing teachers and staff, and our incredible community.

Dakotah Miller offered comments of concern for choosing a new solicitor and asked why a new solicitor is being suggested and asked how the Board will honor the plea to keep politics out of the schools.

Rosie McCrea offered comments on the school district solicitor and said the revised contract has not been posted for public review and said the Board cannot vote in good conscience without allowing the public the opportunity to review the revised contract.

John McCrea offered comments on the school district solicitor and said Stock and Leader has offered a good defense on the current lawsuits and said it makes sense for Stock and Leader to continue the defense until the lawsuits are concluded.

Lara Kauffman offered concern for a disregard of the Sunshine Act and said if the Board votes on the proposal for solicitor it would be a violation and asked the Board to table the decision for public review of the new proposal. She read excerpts from e-mails obtained through a right to know and reminded the Board discussion of agency business in private is a violation of the act and discussions should take place in public.

Caleb Tilden offered comments of concern for the choice of solicitor and said the Board is creating a great conflict of interest and said school boards should not be a political entity. He asked the Board to vote no to this solicitor.

Adam Oldham offered comments on the proposed solicitor and said he is surprised the Board is considering a firm 3 hours away who has substantial political involvement. He said if the Board is sincere about keeping politics out of our school, the Board should vote no and find a less politically active law firm to represent our school district.

Mike Byers offered comments on the solicitor and said the controversy seems unnecessary and this division is not what we're about. He said we can do better and our kids and community deserve it. He said regardless of how you vote or who you worship, we're better together. He asked the Board to take a step back and think about the lessons we want to teach our students.

Bob Kanc offered comments on global citizens and said he was one of the 9 on the Board who approved it. He said the whole process has been a disruption to education and asked if we don't have better things to do and talk about. He said he thinks and hopes we do.

Jack Ericksen from the Big Spring Watershed Association shared a concern for the local water source involving three new proposed warehouses. He asked the school district to provide its support to investigate this further and offered to furnish additional information on the topic.

## **6. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the [DIG Committee Minutes](#) for August 5, 2024 and [Policy Committee, Committee of the Whole](#) and [Board Meeting Minutes](#) for August 19, 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 Transfer for Professional Staff**

Dr. Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent, recommends a professional staff transfer in accordance with Board Policy 309, Assignment and Transfer:

- Ryan Kelley from the position of Middle School Math Teacher to the position of High School Math Teacher replacing Shannon Berry who resigned.

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

### **8.b. Recommended Approval of Extra-Duty Positions**

Dr. Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent, recommends the following individuals based on the provisions of the Teacher Induction Program and the Collective Bargaining Agreement:

- Jessica Dagle to serve as Year 2 Mentor Teacher to Dodie Bishopp.
- Sara Beth Fulton to serve as Year 2 Mentor Teacher to Morgan Bear.
- Millie Gilbert to serve as Year 2 Mentor Teacher to Zachary Slodysko.
- Christina Gruver to serve as Mentor Teacher to Kathryn Rose.
- Cherie Powell to serve as Year 2 Mentor Teacher to Brent Duffy.

### **8.b. Recommended Approval of Extra-Duty Positions (continued)**

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, recommends the following individual for an extra-duty position:

- Amy Craig to serve as Co-Student Assistance Program Coordinator for Middle School.

Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, recommends the following individuals for an extra-duty staff position:

- Logan Brennan to serve as Assistant Middle School Football Coach.
- Leah Fleming to serve as Assistant Coach for Girls Wrestling.

Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, recommends the following individual for an extra-duty staff position:

- Erin Zinn to serve as Assistant Department Head for Special Education replacing Sarah Roller who resigned.

Clarissa Nace, Middle School Principal, recommends the following individuals for extra-duty staff positions:

- Stacy Gibb to serve as NJHS Advisor replacing Therese Bukousky who resigned.
- Emma Shutt to serve as 7th Grade Level Leader at the middle school.
- Zachary Slodysko to serve as NJHS Advisor replacing Luke Nerone who transferred.

Matthew Kump, Aquatics Director, recommends the following student for hire:

- Rebecca Fertig to serve as a Student Lifeguard and be compensated the hourly rate based on the Classified Compensation Plan.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the 2024-2025 extra-duty positions as presented.

### **8.c. Recommended Approval of Resignations**

Dr. Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent, received the following resignation:

### **8.c. Recommended Approval of Resignations (continued)**

- Ryan Kelley provided a letter of resignation from the extra-duty position of 8th Grade Level Leader effective September 10, 2024.

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

- Jacob Beecher provided a letter of resignation from the position of Assistant High School Track Coach.
- James Maxwell provided a letter of resignation from the position of Co-Assistant JV Baseball Coach.

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

### **8.d. Recommended Approval of a Middle School Math Teacher - Kathryn Rose**

#### **Education:**

Virginia Polytechnic and State University - Human Services (Bachelor's Degree)

Cabrini University - Elementary Education (Master's Degree)

#### **Experience:**

Phoenixville High School - Math Interventionist

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors appoint **Kathryn Rose** to the position of Middle School Math Teacher replacing Ryan Kelley who transferred. The compensation for this position should be established at Master's Degree step 8 \$70,089.00 for the 2024-2025 school year, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association. Employment is contingent upon pending receipt of all required employment documentation.

### **8.e. Recommended Approval of a Middle School Special Education Teacher - Rachael Landis**

#### **Education:**

Kutztown University - Special Education/Elementary Education PK-4 (Bachelor's Degree)

#### **Experience:**

Bedford County Schools - Special Education Teacher

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors appoint **Rachael Landis** to the position of Middle School Special Education Teacher replacing Megan Martin who transferred. The compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's Degree step 8 \$65,199.00 for the 2024-2025 school year, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association. Employment is contingent upon pending receipt of all required employment documentation.

## **8.f. Recommended Approval of a Part-Time Custodian**

Ms. Cheri Frank, Director of Custodial Services, recommends the following for new hire:

- Wendy McCartney to serve as a part-time, second shift Custodian at the High School replacing Kenneth Sunday who resigned. The starting rate should be \$16.10 per hour for the 2024-2025 school year pending receipt of all required employment documentation. This hire is subject to the Probationary Period as spelled out in the Classified Staff Handbook.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the custodian for new hire 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 (f) 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 of the Proposed 2024-2025 FFA Program of Activities**

The officers of the Big Spring High School FFA are requesting Board approval of the proposed 2024-2025 [Program of Activities](#). Board approval of the Program of Activities is a requirement in preparation for the State and National Chapter Awards. Included in the Program of Activities is a listing of current officers and information regarding the organizations' standing committees.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the Program of Activities for the High School FFA 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.b. Recommended Approval of Fundraisers**

Karen Ward, Mt. Rock Elementary Principal, recommends approval of the following 2024-2025 fundraisers:

- Race for Education fundraiser in the fall to benefit Mt. Rock Elementary PTO
- [R & K Subs fundraiser](#) in the spring to benefit Mt. Rock Elementary PTO

Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, recommends approval of the following 2024-2025 fundraisers:

- Marianna's Subs and Pizza fundraiser September 24 - October 4, 2024 to benefit the Boys Soccer Program.
- Gertrude Hawk Chocolate, Maplewood whoopie pies, Country Meat Sticks, Butcher Shoppe Cookie Dough and Coffee, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Rickabaugh Candles, Joe Corbi's Pizza, Marianna's Hoagies, Charleston Wrap, and R & K Subs fundraisers to benefit the Class of 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028.

### **9.b. Recommended Approval of Fundraisers (continued)**

- Bocce Program Spirit Bracelet fundraiser at various athletic events with proceeds going to benefit the Polar Plunge.
- [Terri Lynn fundraiser](#) October 1 through December 20, 2024 to benefit the High School Art Club.

Stacey Kimble, Oak Flat Elementary Principal, recommends approval of the following 2024-2025 fundraisers:

- [Krispy Kreme fundraiser](#) (fall) to benefit the Oak Flat PTO
- [R & K Subs fundraiser](#) (fall) to benefit the Oak Flat PTO
- Project Kids Care fundraiser (spring) to benefit the Oak Flat PTO

Clarissa Nace, Middle School Principal, recommends approval of the following 2024-2025 fundraisers:

- [Welcome Back to School Dance fundraiser](#) on September 13, 2024 to benefit the PBIS/Bulldogs C.A.R.E. Program.
- [Cherrydale Fall fundraiser](#) and [Gourmet Cookies fundraiser](#) September 10 - 24, 2024 to benefit the middle school.
- [R & K Subs fundraiser](#) (fall and second semester) to benefit the 8th Grade Class.

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

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

### **9.c. Recommended Approval of Agreements**

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, has reviewed the [Contract for School Nursing Services](#) with Bayada Home Health Care Inc. to provide school nursing staff support during the 2024-2025 school year.

Dr. Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent, has reviewed the [Extension of School Resource Officer Agreement](#) with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office to extend services for 60 days.

Dr. Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent, has reviewed the [Agreement for the Provision of Alternative Transportation Solutions](#) with EverDriven Technologies, LLC to provide transportation support services during the 2024-2025 school year.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the agreements 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 Updated Policy**

The Policy Committee has proposed the updated policy listed below.

- [Policy 009](#) School Board Policies

The Administration has proposed the updated policy listed below:

- [Policy 626.1](#) Travel Reimbursement - Federal Programs

The updated policies are proposed to the Board of School Directors for approval 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.e. Recommended Approval of Middle School Field Trips**

Mrs. Clarissa Nace, Middle School Principal, is requesting permission for the following 2024-2025 student trips:

- Middle School FFA Officers to attend the Farmer's Breakfast on September 20, 2024 at the West Pennsboro Volunteer Fire Company.
- Middle School Counselors and two students to attend the Caring Team for Grieving Student Summit on October 9, 2024 in Camp Hill during the school day.
- 8th Grade Class Trip to Hershey Park on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the field trips 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.f. Recommended Approval of Capital Project Fund Payments**

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

- Daniel B Krieg Inc. - Seal Coating - [Invoice 0314634](#) - 08/19/2024 - \$30,580.00
- Custom Cut Flooring LLC - Oak Flat Office Renovations - [Invoice 2136](#) - 08/08/2024 - \$21,375.00
- McClure Company - ESCO Phase II - [Invoice 24186-6](#) - 08/27/2024 - \$728,963.00
- Trane U.S. Inc. - Entry Way - [Invoice 314767839](#) - 08/14/2024 - \$2,387.30

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the invoices to be paid from the Capital Project 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.g. Approval to Create New Student Activity Account for the Class of 2028**

Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, is requesting permission to create a new student activity account under his supervision for the [Class of 2028](#).

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the new student activity account 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.h. Recommended Approval for Purchase of Bleachers**

Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities recommends approval to purchase bleachers for use at the pool as follows:

- five (5) 15' two-row tip and roll bleachers and five (5) 15' four-row tip and roll bleachers with non-marring wheels and rubber feet to protect the pool deck at a total cost of [\\$22,745.00 from BSN Sports](#). BSN Sports is CoStar approved, contract #014-E22-269.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the purchase of bleachers for the pool area 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 Appointment of School District Solicitor**

Dr. Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of School Directors have reviewed three proposals for School Solicitor Services and have reviewed the [Solicitorship Contract from Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter, & Graham, L.L.P.](#)

It is recommended the Board of School Directors appoint the law firm of Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter, & Graham, L.L.P. as School District Solicitor as presented.

Mr. Cornman made a motion to table the approval because he said the citizens didn't have proper time for public review of the revised contract and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Shade.

Mr. Over requested the item be tabled until October 7 because he is unable to attend the September 23 meeting.

Mr. Myers said he questioned the new solicitor contract on Thursday regarding the flat fee and travel. He said Stock and Leader served us well for many years and gave a \$500 scholarship to Big Spring students each year totaling thousands of dollars over the years which he said he would like to be considered.

Mrs. Boothe said the proposed law firm has a good reputation and represents many school districts and can serve their clients, whoever they may be, which any good lawyer would do. She said she agrees with the motion to wait and believes it is wise.

Mr. Over said he understands we would be saving money but character counts too and made a motion to reach out to Stock and Leader for an extension of services to table this until the October 7 meeting. Mr. Hippensteel stated this could be too much of a liability. The motion was not seconded.

Voting Yes on the original motion to table to the next meeting: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Shade, and Wardle

Voting No: Over

Motion Carried. 8-1

### **9.j. Recommended Approval of the Disenrollment Survey**

The DIG Committee has prepared a [Disenrollment Survey and explanation letter](#) and is requesting permission to distribute the survey by e-mail to disenrolled families from the 2020-2021 school year through the 2023-2024 school year and requests the survey be mailed by USPS for non-responders with support from the administration.

Approval of the explanation letter and survey is recommended by the DIG Committee as presented.

Motion to approve the survey by Mrs. Shade was seconded by Mrs. Boothe

Mr. Myers stated the survey doesn't look like a finished product and wondered how many people are going to answer so many questions.

Mr. Cornman clarified the survey is responsive and people will see questions based on their responses and may not see all 51 questions. He also stated the survey will not be sent to families who moved out of the district.

The Board discussed the survey including some spelling corrections and revision to the wording referencing the wellness plan that should say health and safety plan.

Mr. Hippensteel made a motion to table the vote pending the discussed corrections which was seconded by Mrs. Shade.

The Board continued to discuss the survey and Mrs. Boothe said this is an opportunity for parents to tell us the story of why they disenrolled to help us improve. She stated the responses will be blind to the Board with access codes known by the administration. Mr. Cornman said the data will show us hot spots to lead to conversations with administration and teachers.

Voting Yes to table approval of the survey for corrections: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

## 10. New Business - Information Item

### 10.a. Leave Request

Chloe Cornman, Middle School Teacher, is requesting a child-rearing leave of absence beginning Monday, January 20, 2025 through approximately Monday, April 14, 2025 with a return date of Tuesday, April 15, 2025. 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.b. Contracted Staff

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, provides the following Contracted Staff updates:

- Graduate student Leah Kneller will serve as an intern to Gabrielle Dietrich from Laurel Life during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Jennifer Rhoads has transferred from Oak Flat to a Direct Paraprofessional at Newville Elementary School.

### 10.c. Proposed Updated Policies

The Policy Committee proposes the updated policies listed below:

- [Policy 918](#) Parent and Family Engagement (First Reading)
- [Policy 806](#) Child Abuse (First Reading)

After the policies have been reviewed by a first and second reading with opportunities for public comment, the updated policies will be presented to the Board of School Directors for approval at the October 7, 2024 Board meeting.

### 10.d. Heart and Sole

The Middle School will be offering a 10-week [Heart and Sole Program](#) to girls in grades 6-8 beginning September 23, 2024 with a 5K Celebration on November 24, 2024 at HACC. Interested Coaches for the upcoming season are: Christy Gruver, Emily Hangen, Jessica Kindon, Chelsea Nelson, and Jessica Sprecher.

## 11. Board Reports

**11.a. Athletic Council - Ken Fisher, Mike Hippensteel, Frank Myers, and John Wardle** - Mr. K. Fisher said he wanted to clear something up from the last meeting and said he meant to say good luck to all student athletes and not just the football team.

**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** - Nothing Offered

- [All-In August Bulletin](#)

**11.d. Cumberland Perry Area CTC** - John Wardle – Mr. Wardle shared he attended 3 meetings and they are in process of rebidding the building project. He said they are in the process of hiring a new CTC Director named Tom Wolfe and said things are going very well at the CTC.

**11.e. DIG Committee - Julie Boothe, Chair Seth Cornman and Lisa Shade** - Nothing Offered

**11.f. Finance Committee - Julie Boothe, Frank Myers, Robert Over, and Lisa Shade** – Mrs. Boothe said they have not had any recent meetings and rumors about cutting positions are unfounded.

**11.g. Future Ready Comp Plan Board Reps - Ken Fisher and Lisa Shade** - Nothing Offered

**11.h. Policy Review and Development Committee - Seth Cornman, Julie Boothe, David Fisher, and John Wardle** – Mr. Cornman said the 2 policies listed as information items are updated for review with no changes. He stated Policy 009 will need a correction to add language about the policy review committee into the policy which was missed.

**11.i. South Central Trust - Seth Cornman** – Nothing Offered

**11.j. Tax Collection Committee - David Fisher** – Nothing Offered

**11.k. Wellness Committee - Seth Cornman** – Nothing Offered

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

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

Dr. Guarente stated the extensive work in the pool area is complete and he is excited to report the pool is open and students are swimming.

Dr. Guarente said the ESCO is closer to completion with some punch list items including Mount Rock and District Office roof work being finalized.

Dr. Guarente thanked the staff, families, administration, and School Board for a very good start to the school year and said attendance at open houses has been tremendous and the parent participation is applauded.

Dr. Guarente thanked everyone who participated in the meeting and said sometimes there are things that are not easy to hear but we will work through it and in the end be better in 2 weeks than we are today so he encouraged everyone to hang in there with us until we make steady progress to be better.

## **12. Meeting Closing**

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

Mr. Cornman said the solicitor selection was an extensive process similar to hiring a teacher or administrator and Dr. Guarente reviewed the proposals and arranged the interviews. He said he doesn't see a reason for concern.

Mr. Over said Mr. Erickson's comments should concern all of us and said if Newville has bad water, it affects Big Spring students. He made a motion to have a lawyer write a letter on behalf of the district. Mr. Hippensteel said the school has no position on that because it is a township issue and goes through a planning process and we can't be involved in those processes. Mr. Over said if we have polluted water, what would we do. He said it wouldn't hurt to have a letter asking representatives and congressmen to help out here. Mr. Cornman said this is similar to problems in his township involving waste runoff and he would like to hear more from Mr. Erickson.

Mr. Over made a motion to have a lawyer send a letter sharing concerns about harm to the water supply which was seconded by Mr. Myers.

Mr. Cornman made a motion to table the letter pending further information which was seconded by Mr. D. Fisher. Mrs. Boothe said there is no mention of this as an agenda item to take a vote on this. Mr. Cornman stated because it was brought up by a member of the public it would be appropriate for a motion tonight but he thinks tabling to gather more information is the best option.

Voting Yes to table Mr. Over's motion for a letter regarding water: Boothe, Cornman, D. Fisher, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Myers, Over, Shade, and Wardle  
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Mr. Over thanked teachers, administrators, and support staff and said keep it up - you're the best.

Mr. Myers thanked everyone for coming and said he appreciated Caleb's input from the student body.

Mrs. Shade said it is wonderful to see the community getting involved. She said right to know requests are a great tool and available to everyone but cost money and the year to date cost for 10 requests has cost the district approximately \$15,000 with one single request costing \$8,800. She said she had no idea before she was on the Board of the cost and wanted the public to know.

Mr. Wardle thanked everyone for coming and said it is important we hear and do what is best for our students. He said he's visited several buildings and what he's seen is amazing and he said keep up the good work. He said he can't say enough about Dr. Guarente and Dr. Sanders' leadership.

#### **12.b. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Shade was 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 **9:24 pm, September 9, 2024**

Next scheduled meeting is **September 23, 2024 at 7:30 pm**

