

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 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 John Wardle

The Buildings and Property Committee of the Big Spring Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 6:00 pm with seven (7) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Lisa Shade, Treasurer; Julie Boothe, Secretary; Seth Cornman, Kenneth Fisher, and Robert Over.

Absent: David Fisher and Frank Myers

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

2. Public Comment – Nothing Offered

3. Presentation:

3.a. Update to the 2025 - 2026 Summer Projects - Cristy Lentz, Business Manager

Mrs. Lentz provided a 2025 – 2026 Summer Project Update to the Board.

Mr. Wardle thanked Mrs. Lentz and said if we don't move the press box, we're looking at approximately \$800,000 coming out of the capital reserve funds for these projects and Mrs. Lentz said that is correct.

Mr. Over asked how many security cameras would be replaced and Mr. Krepps said the number could vary. He said an average camera costs \$1,200 but a zoom capable camera can

be as much as \$2,200. He said they would do an analysis of which cameras are intended to be replaced and cap it at a cost of \$50,000 to replace as many as possible in as many places as possible.

Mr. Over asked if the Newville Elementary speaker system is as simple as unplugging and plugging in a new one and Mr. Krepps said essentially, but there are speakers in every classroom and all common spaces. Mr. Over was concerned the price seemed high and Mr. Krepps said it is his best estimate at this point. Mr. Hippensteel asked why we need to replace speakers every 6 years and what goes bad in them. Mr. Krepps said they are IP speakers so they play with network speakers and are managed from one central location and said the recommended replacement cycle is 6 years. Mr. Hippensteel asked if all speakers are currently working and this is just a maintenance replacement and Mr. Krepps said that is correct. Mrs. Boothe said if a specific speaker goes bad, couldn't that be done during the school year and Mr. Krepps said he would have to purchase 1 or 2 speakers which would go against the general budget rather than the maintenance budget and said this is an opportunity for a technology refresh. President Wardle asked if the speakers hear and are capable to talk back from a classroom and Mr. Krepps confirmed that is correct. Mr. Hippensteel asked if there were phones in the classroom for speaking and Mr. Krepps said yes. Mr. Cornman asked if the speakers have firmware attached to them that could pose a security risk and Mr. Krepps said they are not a network security issue but could fail to provide the ability for teachers and students to hear announcements. Mr. Krepps said we are able to do the labor inhouse and our technology staff would hook them up.

Mr. Over said he understands a desire to upgrade the press box but doesn't understand the cost. Dr. Guarente said we are working from the last numbers we entertained which were several years ago. Mr. Hippensteel said we need to establish an accurate cost to move the press box to the home side which he would like to see happen. He said the current press box is in bad condition and almost a safety issue but we would have to move forward with engineering for updated estimates and future discussion.

Mr. Over asked if the sewer line is being patched or if we would be replacing the whole line and Dr. Guarente said he understood it is replacing the whole line but he would double check to be sure. Mr. Over asked for a cost on fixing rather than replacing the sewer line and Dr. Guarente said we could provide that.

Mr. Over asked if the sidewalk repair figure was based on one or more estimates and Mrs. Lentz said she could find out from Mr. Drawbaugh if other estimates were secured. Mr. Over said he would like to see other estimates. Dr. Guarente said the estimates are through Costars so an outside bidder would be competing against state contracts.

Mr. Hippensteel asked when the last time the high school parking lot was sealcoated and Dr. Guarente said the work was budgeted for last year but was deferred to this year because of other summer work interfering with access. Mr. Hippensteel asked if the sealcoating project is preventative maintenance and wondered when this was last done and Dr. Guarente said we can look into that.

Mr. Hippensteel questioned the lighting work for the district office and asked if we are updating existing lights and adding 8 more and Mrs. Lentz said she will have to get clarification and get back to him. Mr. Hippensteel said electric companies offer lighting incentive upgrades for businesses and suggested someone look into the possibility of what might be available to us and Mrs. Lentz said she could check on that also.

President Wardle said as we move forward, more details will come to the Board maybe as early as the next meeting.

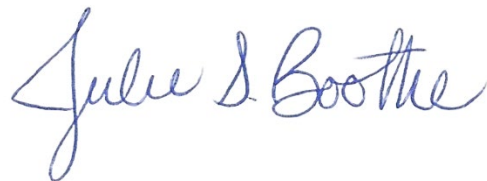
Mrs. Shade asked for the timeframe of our eligibility for grants to help with some of the project costs and Mrs. Lentz said we do have the PCCD grant for the cellular signal project and other grants are possible but it would be a June/July timeframe.

4. Other Items – Nothing Offered

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Cornman was seconded by Mrs. Shade
Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 7-0

Meeting Adjourned at **6:27 pm**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie S. Boothe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2025

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1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Seth Cornman

The Policy Committee of the Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 6:30 pm with three (3) Committee Members present: Chairman Seth Cornman, Secretary Julie Boothe, and President John Wardle and Board of School Directors present: Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Lisa Shade, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, and Robert Over.

Absent: David Fisher

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

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle to approve the meeting agenda

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Community Comment – Rosie McCrea questioned the agenda item pertaining to an athletic policy and asked how policy topics are decided and if Mr. Penner was consulted or if this is a general work session and Mr. Cornman confirmed it is a general work session to discuss policies and no work has been done beforehand on an athletic policy.

Policy Work

Mr. Cornman reviewed Policy 903 suggestions from the solicitor. Mr. Wardle said he believes the 3 minute time limit is enough time and allows more people to speak. Policy 903 changes were discussed.

Motion to implement solicitor changes and the adjustments discussed by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Policy Work (continued)

Mr. Cornman reviewed Policy 235 suggestions from the solicitor. Mr. Wardle questioned the change of parent permission and expressed concern for student mental health screening and said he is worried about the kids. Chairman Cornman and Mrs. Boothe said we need to follow state and federal laws about parent consent with sensitivity to 8 areas of protected information requiring express written parental consent. Mr. Over said if we get this wrong, shame on us. Dr. Oldham was in attendance and his opinion was consulted and he confirmed surveys are a universal screening tool that are helpful to school counselors.

Motion to implement the solicitor changes and ask for solicitor feedback on collecting sensitive information by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Motion to table the remaining agenda items to the next meeting by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

~~New Athletic Policy~~ (discussion tabled)

~~Policy 105.1~~ (discussion tabled)

~~Information Items~~ (discussion tabled)

Community Comment – Lara Kauffman encouraged the Board to review a letter from April 2020 from the Department of Education titled The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regarding student privacy which discusses the use of passive consent for surveys administered by schools and directly speaks to the 8 areas of protected information which PDE says can be surveyed with passive consent and offered to e-mail a copy of the letter to each Board Member.

Member Closing Statements

Mr. Wardle said he appreciates the discussion of these policy topics and thanked Mr. Cornman and Mrs. Boothe for their insight.

Mrs. Boothe referenced the policies that have not been reviewed in recent years and said she will be providing Mr. Cornman with that list for planning purposes and said they should be addressed as soon as possible.

2. Adjournment

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

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Meeting adjourned at **7:15 pm**

