

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012**

*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.*

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring High School Large Group Room, Room 140, at 8:00 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Eight (8) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; John McCrea; Richard Norris; and William Piper.

Richard Roush was absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Sammi Burke and Alyssa Jones, Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*The Board met in Executive Session from 7:26 to 7:58 P.M. to address personnel issues.*

### **II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

President Wolf led all individuals present in the Pledge to the Flag.

### **III. PRAYER**

Director Blasco offered a prayer.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2011 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE DECEMBER 19, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES.**

Motion by Norris, seconded by Blasco for approval of the December 19, 2011 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes and the December 19, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

### **V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS – Alyssa Jones Sammi Burke**

- A.** Mr. Anderson and the Tempus Club prepared several instructional centers for the Oak Flat Elementary School kindergarten classes on Friday, December 16, 2011, for Polar Express Day. The centers included Herpolsheimer's Department Store where students wrote letters to Santa on Macy's postcards; "Driving the Polar Express" where students worked on color identification and earned junior engineer certificates; North Pole Obstacle Course encouraging math skills; Polar Express story time; the Hot Cocoa Car for counting skills; and a visit with Santa.
- B.** Prior to the holidays, Ms. Daugherty and the leadership class conducted a Stall Day where students brought in change that their fourth-period teachers would count in lieu of SSR. With the change collected, the leadership class purchased three microwaves for students to use during lunch. In addition, Mrs. Shuey donated a microwave, for a total of four microwaves available for student use. Students have been instructed on the proper use of the microwaves.
- C.** The World Languages Festival was held on December 21, 2011. Students brought and shared food dishes of Spanish or French origin, and Dr. Jose Ricardo, Shippensburg University professor, taught salsa dancing.
- D.** The boys' and girls' basketball programs hosted the Big Spring Holiday Basketball Classic over the break, including boys' and girls' junior varsity and varsity tournaments. Players from all of the schools brought donations for the Children's Miracle Network totaling \$6,000.00. Big Spring boys' and girls' varsity teams both finished second in the tournament.
- E.** The swim teams hosted the Bulldog Bash swim meet that included almost 400 swimmers from 17 schools in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. Our girls' team finished third, and the boys' team finished eighth.
- F.** Based on the original restructuring subcommittees, faculty research and the technical assistance visit team's recommendations from their visit in early December, five teacher focus teams have been created as follows: pathways, transitions and extra help, grading, literacy, and advisement. Teachers are now in the process of signing up for a focus team on which they wish to serve. Mr. Smith asked the Channel 3 news team to show part of the TAV team's report to the student body prior to the holidays. The footage included the team recognizing Big Spring students for being well-mannered, friendly, welcoming, respectful, and demonstrating considerable school pride and love for the school.
- G.** William Wiser was featured as The Sentinel's Offensive Player of the Year. Dakota Matthews also made the first team.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS (Continued)**

- H. Eleven Big Spring musicians were selected to participate in the Cumberland County Band Festival during the first weekend in January. Five musicians qualified for the District Band Festival this past weekend.
- I. FFA students earned numerous honors at the Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention at the Farm Show: Nine students earned the blue FFA jackets. The Window Display Team finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the state with a very informative display on stinkbugs entitled "What's Coming Out of the Woods?" The Conservation Garden Team finished third in the state. Two FFA members finished first in their Agriscience Fair categories. Seniors Amanda Musselman, Adrienne Line, and Shane Moomaw earned their Keystone Degrees, the highest state-level award that a student can earn.
- J. Student Council is sponsoring the Winter Ball on February 11, 2012, with the theme "Party Like It's 2012." A flower sale will be held the week before the dance.
- K. Final examinations and midterms were administered last week, and second-semester classes begin on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

Four of the seven students who qualified for County Chorus sang a selection from the County Chorus Festival music. At the County Chorus Festival, 150 students from across Cumberland County performed with a guest conductor. Tyler Mathna qualified to sing at the District Chorus Festival.

President Wolf and Vice President Swanson presented the musicians with Big Spring School District Excellence in Education award pens.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report and for the musical presentation.

### **VI. TREASURER'S REPORT (Balances as of December 31, 2011)**

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| General Fund          | \$ 16,700,054.37 |
| Cafeteria Fund        | \$ 324,048.45    |
| Student Activity Fund | \$ 230,889.94    |
| Capital Projects      | \$ 3,026,731.41  |
| Newville Projects     | \$ 632,614.92    |

The Treasurer's Report showed balances as outlined above as of December 31, 2012. Motion by Gutshall, seconded by Blasco for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012

### VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

|                    |                        |  |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| General Fund       | \$ 1,075,290.80        | Checks #64569-64863,<br>1211MF01-1211MF06,<br>1211MF09-1211MF10,<br>1211MS01-1211MS06, 1211MS08,<br>1211MS09, 1211MS12, 1211MS13,<br>1211SE01-1211SE08,<br>1211WG01-1211WG03, and<br>12281101-12281101 |
| Cafeteria Fund     | \$ 93,540.89           | Checks #5550-5565  |
| Miscellaneous Fund | \$ 28,371.39           | Checks #13026-13071  |
| Capital Projects   | \$ 4,396.16            | Checks #615-616  |
| Newville Projects  | \$ 2,319.21            | Checks #197-198  |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>\$ 1,203,918.45</b> |  |

Motion by Gutshall, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund, Cafeteria Fund, Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Newville Project payments of bills as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

### VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

### IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Charlene D'Amore, Dashell Fittry, Monica Gutshall, Michael Hippensteel, Tyler Mathna, April Messenger, and Susan Shuey.

### X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Mr. Dashell Fittry**, 2262 Newville Road, 17015 Carlisle, PA, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and thanked the Board for providing him an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Fittry campaigned for the School Board in 2011, and he shared this evening some of the concerns about the Big Spring School District expressed by constituents during the campaign. Among those concerns are the following: high taxes; perceived fiscal mismanagement locally, statewide, and nationally; District land purchases not fully understood by District residents; and pay raises for some upper-level District employees and layoffs/benefits cuts for lower-level District employees.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)**

#### **Mr. Dashell Fittry (Continued)**

Mr. Fittry suggested that the Board consider the following: a pay freeze for teachers, including a requirement that teachers help pay for life insurance, dental insurance, and vision insurance; increase in the substitute teacher pay; cuts for more of the athletic budget; a focus on increasing achievement in the District, including the reinstatement of the monies that were cut from the field trip budget; elimination of the parking lot monitor and the student fee to park in a parking lot that was paid for by District residents; creation of a policy that requires teachers to grade and return examinations in a timely fashion; improved writing curriculum beginning at the elementary level; elimination of the driver's education program; reduction in the number of days off for teachers; and disciplining students by making them go to class instead of requiring them to serve detention or suspension time.

Mr. Fittry commended the District's teachers; however, he suggested that a dress code for teachers should be considered because, in his opinion, "the way many staff members dress is disrespectful to students."

Mr. Fittry suggested that Board members should be more approachable and accessible to the District residents, and he suggested that Board members should have email addresses posted on the District website, along with other contact information.

Mr. Fittry suggested a revision to the way in which Board members are elected. At this time Board members are elected according to set precincts. Mr. Fittry suggested that the Board representation should come from the whole body of District residents, providing more equal representation for the citizens.

Please refer to the attached written statement: [01-16-2012 Dashell Fittry Public Comment.pdf](#).

In summary, Mr. Fittry requested that the Board attempt to get "more bang for the buck." Although he does not plan to run for a seat on the Big Spring School Board again in the future, Mr. Fittry noted that he would continue to bring concerns to the Board in an attempt to effect positive change.

Mr. Fittry thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for allowing him to speak this evening.

### **XI. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No structured public comment was offered.

### **XII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012

(NOTE: The Board addressed  
XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-6,  
following Item A-6.)

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

**(ACTION ITEM)**

1. **Mr. William Clayton** submitted his letter of resignation as a full-time custodian at the high school, retroactive to January 2, 2012.

A copy of Mr. Clayton's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Clayton's resignation as a full-time custodian at the high school, retroactive to January 2, 2012.

2. **Additional Per Diem Substitute Teachers**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Tiffany Frazier | Elementary Education |
| Megan Hall      | Elementary Education |
| Katherine Nye   | Elementary Education |

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additions listed to the 2011-2012 per diem substitute teacher list as presented.

3. **Substitute Instructional Aide**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a substitute instructional aide for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Tyra Hosfelt**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Tyra Hosfelt as a substitute instructional aide for the 2011-2012 school year.

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

##### 4. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Bethany Pagze (ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Bethany Pagze, High School English teacher, requested leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act from approximately March 21, 2012 through approximately May 11, 2012. According to Section 3.08 of the 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, her request meets all provisions for a child-rearing leave according to the current contract.

A copy of Mrs. Pagze's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Pagze's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence from approximately March 21, 2012, through approximately May 11, 2012.

##### 5. 2011-2012 Additional Bus Driver's for Deitch Busing (ACTION ITEM)

**Beverly Orner**  
**Julie Miller**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors acknowledge the additions of Ms. Miller and Ms. Orner as bus drivers for the 2011-2012 school year.

##### (ACTION ITEM)

##### 6. Karyn Cunningham Carlisle, PA 17015

Long-Term Substitute Life Skills Teacher  
(replacing Mrs. Weller who will be on  
child-rearing leave of absence)

##### Education:

University of Pittsburgh – Elementary Education (Bachelor's Degree)

##### Experience:

Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Cunningham to serve as a long-term substitute life skills teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School, effective approximately January 23, 2012, through approximately April 10, 2012, replacing Mrs. Weller, who will be on child-rearing leave of absence. Mrs. Cunningham's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, Step 1, \$41,551.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)**

##### **VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-6, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **B. Case B of 2011-2012**

#### **(ACTION ITEM)**

The parents of the student in Case B of the 2011-2012 school year waived their right to a formal student discipline hearing before the Board of School Directors.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors exclude the student in Case B of the 2011-2012 school year for a period of forty-five (45) days, reduced to thirty (30) school days, predicated upon completion of the Student Assistance Team process. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted on school property at any time for any reason.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **C. Case C of 2011-2012**

#### **(ACTION ITEM)**

The parents of the student in Case C of the 2011-2012 school year waived their right to a formal student discipline hearing before the Board of School Directors.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors exclude the student in Case C of the 2011-2012 school year for a period of forty-five (45) days, reduced to thirty (30) school days, predicated upon completion of the Student Assistance Team process. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted on school property at any time for any reason.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Blasco to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### D. Credit Pay (ACTION ITEM)

The professional employees whose names are listed below have successfully completed graduate work and are entitled to the specified amount in accordance with the negotiated contract.

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Amanda Brown      | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Mallory Cohick    | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Charlene D'Amore  | \$ 2,472.00        |
| Barbara Dellinger | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Heidi Fraker      | \$ 815.00          |
| Michael Fronk     | \$ 960.00          |
| Michael Ginter    | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Kassandra Gordon  | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Lindsay Graham    | \$ 2,050.98        |
| Jennifer Heishman | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Kay Keim          | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Jennifer Kump     | \$ 1,185.00        |
| Keith Lavala      | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Leslie Lynch      | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Sherisa Nailor    | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Ashley Oldham     | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Bethany Pagze     | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Katie Sands       | \$ 1,956.00        |
| Valerie Sauter    | \$ 3,708.00        |
| Justine Sieg      | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Lauren Swigart    | \$ 2,472.00        |
| Jennifer Tritapoe | \$ 1,236.00        |
| Stephanie Weller  | \$ 2,472.00        |
| Deborah Whitmoyer | \$ 2,472.00        |
| Erin Zinn         | <u>\$ 1,236.00</u> |
| Total             | \$39,102.98        |

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize reimbursement for graduate credits as outlined above and as provided in the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **E. Facilities Utilization Request**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The 2011-2012 Post Graduation Committee requested permission to use the High School Commons for a sandwich fundraiser pickup on Sunday, February 26, 2012. Because the utilization date is on a Sunday, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the 2011-2012 Post Graduation Committee request to use the High School Commons as presented.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

Mr. Fry noted that this event would begin at 4:30 P.M.

Roll call vote on the motion by Swanson and second by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **F. Planned Course Adoption**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Listed below is a completed planned course for board approval.

##### **High School – Science Biotechnology**

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the planned course as presented.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**(NOTE: The Board addressed XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items G, H, and I, following Item I.)**

#### **G. Keystone Grant Application Request**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**Mr. Kevin Roberts**, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology, requested permission to pursue a grant opportunity titled "Keystone to Opportunity". The successful grant recipients could receive up to \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 per year in grant monies utilized to support current initiatives and also extend the District's goals into other literacy strategies.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **G. Keystone Grant Application Request** (Continued)

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the administration to pursue the request for grant funds as noted above.

In response to a question from Director McCrea, Mr. Roberts indicated that the pre-application process is complete and a letter of intent has been submitted regarding this grant. Information regarding the pre-application is expected on February 13, 2012.

Mr. Fry noted that 125 to 150 Districts will remain after the pre-application process, and he added that "Big Spring might not be needy enough" to qualify for this grant.

In response to a question from Mr. McCrea, Mr. Roberts indicated that, if successful, the District would partner with Head Start for the early childhood services.

#### **H. Fitness Frenzy Mini-Grant**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**Mr. Kevin Roberts**, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology, requested permission to establish accounts for the Fitness Frenzy Mini-Grant that was awarded to Mount Rock Elementary School in the amount of \$900.00.

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the administration to establish accounts for the mini-grant listed in the amount of \$900.00.

#### **I. Accountability Block Grant**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**Mrs. Jeanne Temple**, Assistant Superintendent, requested permission to include the recently awarded Accountability Block Grant for Big Spring School District in the amount of \$171,093.00 into the 2011-2012 General Fund budget and to establish the necessary accounts. Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the inclusion of the ABG grant into the 2011-2012 budget and directs the administration to establish accounts for the grant listed in the amount of \$171,093.00

#### **VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, ITEMS G, H, AND I**

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Norris to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items G, H, and I, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **J. Updated Year-to-Date Summaries/Taxes and General Fund (INFORMATION ITEM)**

The Business Office prepared updated year-to-date summaries for taxes and General Fund that were included with the agenda.

Mr. Kerr reported that the revenue collections are “evening out and doing well.”

#### **K. Proposed 2012-2013 School District Calendar (INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM)**

The administration drafted a proposed school district calendar for the 2012-2013 school year.

A copy of the proposed 2012-2013 school district calendar was included with the agenda.

This was a Board Information/Discussion item that will be included on the February 6, 2012 Board meeting agenda as an action item.

Mr. Fry noted that the 2012-2013 calendar is nearly identical to the 2011-2012 calendar, with the year culminating in graduation on June 7, 2013.

Mr. Fry added that Veterans Day is observed on November 12, 2012. Mr. Fry indicated that the administration believes having students in school on Veterans Day with activities that pay homage to veterans helps students understand the important role of veterans. Mr. Fry noted that the Veterans Day activities have been successful the past few years.

President Wolf agreed and added that, in his opinion, it is far better to have students exposed to Veterans Day activities than to stay home for the day.

**(INFORMATION ITEM)**

#### **L. Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School General Fund Budget Proposal**

The Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School has developed a General Fund Budget Proposal for the 2012–2013 school year. The proposed budget reflects a -1.04% decrease for the Big Spring School District. The dollar value of this decrease for Big Spring School District is \$7,360.00. The proposed Vo-Tech General Fund Budget will be an action item on the next Board Agenda.

Mr. Fry noted that Big Spring's vo-tech fee is based on a five-year sliding scale enrollment fee. Mr. Fry commended the vo-tech for a tremendous job of cost containment, even with the challenges posed by PSERS and health care costs.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future Board agenda items.

### **XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. District Improvement Committee – Mr. Norris/Mr. McCrea**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

The District Improvement Committee will meet on Thursday, January 19, 2012.

#### **B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

#### **C. Vocational-Technical School – Mr. Wolf/Mr. Piper**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

President Wolf noted that things are going well at the vo-tech school, and he added that it is his hope that Big Spring's student participation would increase next year. Mr. Wolf indicated that the school prepares students for many lucrative occupations for which workers are in demand.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, President Wolf indicated that vo-tech students are building a house for the Pennsylvania Home Show at the Farm Show complex again this year.

#### **D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick**

Please refer to this evening's Buildings and Property Committee meeting minutes.

#### **E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

#### **F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

#### **G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf**

President Wolf indicated that the CAIU Board is beginning the strategic plan process to provide guidance for the CAIU over the next five years. The CAIU Board will continue to address these issues throughout the spring.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**

#### **H. Tax Collection Committee (TCC) – Mr. Wolf**

President Wolf indicated that the Cumberland County Tax Collection Bureau would hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

Mr. Wolf reported that Big Spring is no longer a member of Capital Tax Collection Bureau, and he added that the District was instructed not to attend any future meetings of that entity.

In response to a question from Director McCrea, Mr. Fry indicated that with respect to the suit filed against CapTax in the Court of Common Pleas, the District is in the waiting period as the suit makes its way through the legal system. Mr. Fry added that South Middleton School District would act this evening on the final paperwork necessary to become a party in the suit.

### **XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **A. Wide Area Network (WAN) Update**

Superintendent Fry indicated that the District's WAN service has been rebid and the results are favorable. The service will increase from 100 megabytes to 1 gigabyte of bandwidth at a cost \$50.00 a month less than the current monthly fee.

Mr. Fry noted that he would provide additional information for the Board to address this issue at the February 6, 2012 Board meeting.

#### **B. Board Appreciation Month**

Mr. Fry indicated that January is School Board Member Appreciation Month, and he thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for the sacrifices they make representing the public. Mr. Fry noted that he applauds the efforts of the Board members, particularly with regard to decreasing expenses approximately \$800,000.00 last year and ensuring that student achievement continues to increase. Mr. Fry thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for their efforts on behalf of the Big Spring School District.

### **XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

#### **A. Farm Show**

Director Barrick indicated that Big Spring was well represented at the Farm Show, including Taylor Miller, a middle school student who participated in the Pennsylvania High School Rodeo event.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, January 16, 2012**

### **XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR (Continued)**

#### **B. Question Regarding Public Comment**

Director McCrea questioned the length of time an individual is permitted to address the members of the Board of School Directors during the public comment period.

Mr. Fry indicated that speakers are permitted five minutes during structured public comment period and three minutes during the public comment period.

President Wolf noted that this evening's public comment speaker exceeded both time limits, and he added that any future presentations would be limited to three or five minutes, according to these guidelines.

### **XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

### **XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to adjourn to Executive Session to address personnel issues and not to return to Open Session. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, February 6, 2012**