

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

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 8:06 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Nine (9) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; Tarin Houpt; Richard Norris; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

Others in attendance: Richard Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Erica Dolson, The Sentinel; Douglas Kennedy and Cora Agar Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

III. PRAYER

Director Piper offered a prayer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The members of the Board of School Directors met in Executive Session this evening from 7:46 p.m. to 8:05 p.m. to address negotiations issues.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 18, 2010 BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES; THE JANUARY 18, 2010 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES; THE JANUARY 18, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES; AND THE JANUARY 21, 2010 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris for approval of the JANUARY 18, 2010 BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES; THE JANUARY 18, 2010 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES; THE JANUARY 18, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES; AND THE JANUARY 21, 2010 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Douglas Kennedy and Cora Agar

The students offered the following report:

- A. Report cards and body mass index letters were sent home with students on January 27, 2010.
- B. The following students represented Big Spring at the county band festival at Mechanicsburg Area School District: Dominic Baldoni, Elizabeth Fisher, Elaina McGann, Dustin Armond, Michelle Sheeler, Nellie Fulton, Winona Fedin, Jim Pridgeon, and Clayton McKee. Eight students auditioned and earned first or second chair.
- C. Dru Kepner traveled to Lampeter recently to perform in the District 7 Choral Festival.
- D. Elaina McGann auditioned and won the Shippensburg Town Band Solo Competition. Ms. McGann earned \$600.00 and a chance to perform with the Shippensburg Town Band later in the year.
- E. New online courses offered by the District this semester are AP biology, German I, and French II.
- F. National Honor Society members prepared a picnic-style luncheon for teachers recently.
- G. Big Spring basketball players were successful in four games against Shippensburg last weekend. The Bulldog Pep Band and Dance Team performed at the athletic events. Mr. Hockenbroch served the players dinner after the games.
- H. Rehearsals for the musical Anything Goes have begun. Performances are slated for March 18, 29, and 20, 2010. Tickets are \$7.00, and reserved seating is available.
- I. The Neville Lions Club honored Cora Agar and Hunter Bailey as students of the month for January in February 2010.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report is presented at the second Board meeting each month.

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund Account Payment of Bills and Central Treasury Athletic and Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account Payment of Bills

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund Account checks #56762-56930 totaling \$451,375.53 and Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13575-13636 totaling \$6,304.97 and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #11828-11848 voided checks #11834 totaling \$17,299.70. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Cafeteria, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$474,980.20. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Hout, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Susan Benso, Charlene D'Amore, and April Messenger.

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X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was offered.

XI. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No structured public comment was offered.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

**(NOTE: The Board addressed
XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-10,
following Item A-10.)**

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teacher

(ACTION ITEM)

Amanda Schroeder - Art K-12

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the addition of the individual listed to the 2009-2010 per diem substitute teacher list as presented, pending all required paperwork.

2. Additional Per Diem Substitute Guest Teachers

(ACTION ITEM)

In an attempt to provide a sufficient number of substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year, the Big Spring School District is working in cooperation with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit to sponsor the "Guest Teacher Program." The individuals whose names appear below have participated in an orientation program sponsored by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and has been issued an emergency certification by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Anthony Natale
Stephanie Coulson**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additions of the above-named guest teachers to the 2009-2010 per diem substitute teacher list effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

3. Mr. John Beeman, seventh grade social studies teacher, was recommended to serve as a seventh grade team leader, replacing Ms. Christina Keller.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Beeman to serve as a seventh grade team leader, effective immediately.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

4. Salary Adjustment

(ACTION ITEM)

High School Principal, Mr. Steven Smith, was transferred on July 21, 2009 from Oak Flat Elementary School. Mr. Smith was transferred without a pay adjustment. Mr. Smith has recently completed sixth months in his new position, and the administration recommended a salary adjustment consummate to his new position.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors adjust Mr. Steven Smith's 2009-2010 salary via an increase of \$2,000.00.

5. Substitute Nurse's Aide

(ACTION ITEM)

The individual whose name is listed below is recommended to be placed on the substitute nurse's aide list.

Ms. Gretchen Horst

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Gretchen Horst to be placed on the substitute nurse's aide list as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

6. Mrs. Karen Showaker, middle school family consumer science teacher, requested one day of leave without pay, retroactive to December 18, 2009.

Section 3.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides that "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave."

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Showaker's request for one day of leave without pay as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

7. Mrs. Carol Beard, learning support teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School, requested one-half day leave without pay for March 18, 2010 and one day leave without pay for March 19, 2010.

Section 3.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides that "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave."

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Beard's request for one and one-half day leave without pay as presented.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

- 8. Mrs. Leah Richwine**, sixth grade reading teacher at the middle school, requested three days leave without pay for March 17, 18, and 19, 2010.

Section 3.09 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District provides that "The Board may grant leave without pay to an employee who requests prior approval for such leave."

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Richwine's request for three days leave without pay as presented.

- 9. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Heather Detwiler**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Heather Detwiler, high school mathematics teacher, has requested leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence beginning tentatively April 23, 2010 through the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. 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. Detwiler's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Heather Detwiler's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence tentatively from April 23, 2010 through the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, according to the terms of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

- 10. Marsha Stellfox**
Enola, PA 17025

Middle School Long-Term Substitute
Emotional Support Teacher
(replacing Mrs. Heather Hess
who has resigned effective February 5, 2010)

Education:

Lock Haven University – Special Education (Bachelor's Degree)
Shippensburg University – Master's of Education

Experience:

Halifax Middle School – Learning Support Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Stellfox to serve as a long-term substitute middle school emotional support teacher, effective February 2, 2010, replacing Mrs. Hess who has resigned effective February 5, 2010. Mrs. Stellfox's compensation for this position should be established at Master's, Step 7, \$43,812.00, plus a \$400.00 special education stipend, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

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

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Lopp to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-10, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Credit Pay

(ACTION ITEM)

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

Chad Feeser	\$ 2,160.00
Kay Keim	\$ 1,071.00
Leah Richwine	\$ 1,110.00
SaraBeth Wanbaugh	<u>\$ 1,170.00</u>
Total	\$ 5,511.00

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

(ACTION ITEM)

C. Approval of Standard Stormwater Facilities and Best Management Practices Maintenance and Monitoring

The Big Spring Board of School Directors will need to act on a stormwater agreement prior to moving forward with Land Development Plans for Newville Elementary School. Solicitors for the School District and Borough of Newville have conferred on a proposed agreement and developed the agreement for board action this evening.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the proposed Stormwater Agreement between the Big Spring School District and the Borough of Newville.

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

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

D. 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 2010–2011 school year. The proposed budget reflects a 2.47% increase for the 2010-2011 school year.

The General Fund Budget Proposal for the 2010-2011 school year was presented at the January 18, 2010 board meeting as an information item.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the proposed 2010-2011 CPAVTS budget as presented with the understanding that the actual cost for Big Spring's participation in the vo-tech school will be determined based on final enrollment calculations.

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

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Wolf and Mr. Kerr explained that the proposed 2010-2011 vo-tech budget as presented includes the PSERS increase.

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

E. 2010-2011 General Fund Budget

(ACTION ITEM)

The administration has met with the Finance Committee on a monthly basis to develop priorities and set the structure for the 2010-2011 General Fund Budget. As a result, the administration has prepared a budget totaling \$41,707,020 including a real estate tax increase of .841 mills or 5.44% with the rate increasing from 15.455 to 16.296 mills. This budget exceeds the Act 1 index amount of 3.8% increase and would require the Board to seek an exception of approximately .254 mills from the PA Dept. of Education for Retirement contributions under Section 333(n) of Act 1 of 2006. All other taxes will remain at current rates.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors adopt the preliminary 2010-2011 general Fund Budget as presented by the administration in the amount of \$41,707,020 with a proposed Real Estate Tax rate of 16.296 mills.

Further, the administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the administration and Board officers to take all steps necessary to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for a referendum exception regarding Retirement contributions.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Voting No: Piper. Total Yes votes: Eight (8). Total No votes: One (1). Motion carried by a majority vote.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM)

F. Proposed 2010-2011 School District Calendar

The administration drafted a proposed school district calendar for the 2010-2011 school year.

A copy of the proposed 2010-2011 school district calendar was included with the agenda.

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Norris to approve this item as an action item and approve the proposed school district calendar for the 2010-2011 school year as presented. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future Board agenda items.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson

The Athletic Committee met on Friday, January 29, 2010.

The following meeting highlights were noted:

1. 2009 football gate receipts were down \$7,000.00 because of the rainy season. Other area schools suffered a similar decrease in receipts for the same reason. Big Spring's well-attended winter sports are making up for the poor fall ticket sales.
2. Mr. Robert Jumper and Ms. Kathy Bravin have requested a third cross country coach.
3. In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Swanson indicated that Mr. Hockenbroch would present this spring the proposed athletic ticket prices for the 2010-2011 school term.
4. Consideration is being given to charging admission for all sports.
5. Big Spring was not selected to host the district-wide cross country meet. The event will be held at Hershey.

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

President Wolf reported the following:

1. An energy-saving four-day workweek for the summer is being contemplated for the vo-tech school this year.
2. A name change for the vo-tech school is being considered, with a goal toward a name that reflects the broad-based career training that the school provides. School representatives are soliciting input regarding the name change.
3. The possibility exists that Big Spring's vo-tech students would each lunch at Big Spring's campus for the 2010-2011 school term. Big Spring could easily accommodate the additional 125 students (estimated) for lunch. Members of Big Spring's administration are in favor of this proposed move. Any such change would not affect negatively the vo-tech bus schedules.

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XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

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

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

Please refer to this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

President Wolf reported that the most recent Capital Area Intermediate Unit meeting was productive and went smoothly.

H. Capital Tax Collection Bureau – Mr. Wolf

Mr. Wolf and Mr. Roush attended a tax collection meeting recently.

Mr. Wolf reported on the various tax-collection agencies that area municipalities are considering for tax-collection services.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Wolf indicated that, although the Capital Tax Collection Bureau currently collects earned income tax for the Big Spring School District, it is probable that the West Shore Tax Bureau would collect those taxes for the Big Spring School District when tax collections go to a county format.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. District Band Festival

Superintendent Fry indicated that Big Spring School District would host the District Band Festival on February 12 and 13, 2010. The District will host approximately 1200 students from nine counties.

B. Mandate Waiver Relief – Senate Education Committee

Mr. Fry indicated that he would offer mandate waiver relief testimony before the Senate Education Committee on February 10, 2010.

C. Newville Elementary School Construction Project Meeting

Superintendent Fry reported that the first construction project meeting for the Newville Elementary School project would be held on February 11, 2010. Members of the administration will meet with the contractors and construction manager to address phasing of the project and to hear a general overview of the construction that will take place throughout the spring. The team will ensure that there is effective communication with families and staff members regarding the project phasing.

D. Oak Flat Elementary School Newsletter

Mr. Fry indicated that Board copies of Oak Flat Elementary School's January-February 2010 newsletter were included in Board members' packets this evening. To recognize School Board Appreciation Month, students created an acrostic thanking the members of the Board of School Directors for their contributions to the District.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

E. Congratulations, Winter Athletes and Coaches!

Superintendent Fry commended the wrestling team for winning the Mid Penn championship, and he congratulated the boys' and girls' basketball teams for their accomplishments this season. The basketball players will compete for the district championship on Friday, February 5, 2010. Mr. Fry applauded the athletes, coaches, and staff members for a "wonderful winter season."

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Happy Ground Hog Day!

Director Barrick wished everyone a happy Ground Hog Day.

B. Electronic Board Packets

In response to a suggestion from Director Roush, Mr. Fry indicated that he would offer emailed electronic copies of the Board packet to those Board members who wish to have the packets in that format. In addition, Mr. Fry indicated that he would provide laptops for Board members to use at meetings by the first meeting in March 2010.

C. Pension Reform

Director Blasco indicated that the Middletown Area School Board approved a resolution recently urging legislators to consider pension reform. Mr. Blasco questioned whether this Board would consider sending similar letters to legislators.

Mr. Fry indicated that the administration has sample language for a similar resolution, and he noted that he would prepare a letter for the Board's consideration. Mr. Fry added that he is curious to see the House response to a pension reform bill currently being proposed.

Mr. Blasco noted that the PSERS system affects all retirees in the state system, including Big Spring's staff members.

Mr. Piper encouraged the Board to inform legislators of the actual costs to Big Spring related to the proposed PSERS increase in coming years. Mr. Piper noted that he is certain the legislators are unaware of the cost to local school districts.

Mr. Blasco indicated that legislators have been told how the PSERS increases are affecting school districts; however, it would appear the legislators are not listening.

Vice President Swanson indicated that it would be prudent to inform the legislators of the Board's position. Mr. Swanson noted that he has first-hand knowledge that legislators are not always certain of the details on issues before the House.

D. Capital Area Intermediate Unit

President Wolf indicated that there is a push in the Capital Area Intermediate Unit to get legislation approved that requires school districts to seek help through the IU for services before contracting with outside vendors.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

D. Capital Area Intermediate Unit (Continued)

Mr. Fry confirmed that part of Senator Piccola's Empowerment Act is to reaffirm the authority of the Intermediate Unit to ensure consolidation of services. The current Empowerment Act is set to expire on June 30, 2010, and must be reauthorized by that time. Mr. Fry noted that there is language in the Act to "bring back what the Intermediate Units were intended to do."

President Wolf suggested that it might be prudent in the future to send a resolution from the Board to legislators indicating that it is the Big Spring School Board's position that school districts should have the freedom to choose service providers.

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 Lopp to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Houpt, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, February 15, 2010