

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 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. Nine (9) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; John McCrea; Richard Norris; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

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; Rick Gilliam, Food Service and Transportation Director; Steve Smith, High School Principal; Joseph Cress, The Sentinel; Alyssa Jones and Nick Hasse, Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The members of the Board of School Directors met in Executive Session to address legal and personnel concerns from 7:29 to 7:58 P.M.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

III. PRAYER

Director Blasco offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 5, 2012 BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES; THE MARCH 5, 2012 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES; AND THE MARCH 5, 2012 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Roush for approval of the March 5, 2012 Buildings and Property Committee Meeting Minutes; the March 5, 2012 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the March 5, 2012 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Nick Hasse/Alyssa Jones

- A.** On March 3, 2012, the color guard won its third consecutive competition at the East Pennsboro invitational. The indoor guard has placed first in all of its competitions this winter.
- B.** In FFA news, 14 Big Spring members participated in the Cumberland-Dauphin-Perry area public speaking contest on Friday, March 9, 2012. With students from 8 high schools competing, Big Spring's public speakers earned 6 of the 16 qualifying places for the regional competition. Regional qualifiers include Brittany Olson, 4th, senior prepared; Kayla Wilson, 3rd, creed speaking; Shane Moomaw, 2nd, conservation; Chrissy Kurnath, champion, junior prepared; and Darian Foga-Frehn, champion in creed speaking.
- C.** The high school hosted the annual Music In Our Schools Concert on Friday, March 9, 2012. The audience enjoyed performances from the elementary pops band, Oak Flat's fifth grade music classes, the sixth grade band, the middle school chorus, the middle school jazz band, Cantabile, and the high school concert band.
- D.** The high school Odyssey of the Mind team finished third in the regional meet on Saturday, March 10, 2012. The eighth grade team finished fourth, and the seventh grade team finished second and qualified for State competition.
- E.** Juniors are currently taking the math and reading PSSAs and will finish those tests on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The writing PSSA will be administered the week of April 16, 2012, with the science PSSAs the week of April 23, 2012.
- F.** There has been a significant increase in the number of juniors who participated in the Study Island PSSA preparation program this year, more than doubling the number compared with last year, with approximately 70 juniors who completed the Study Island components in either math or reading.
- G.** The leadership class is sponsoring the Color Clash Charity Dance from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 24, 2012, in the commons. Students are asked to wear their class colors to earn color wars points, and all proceeds go to the four class charities: Make-A-Wish Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, Furry Friends Network, and the Four Diamonds Fund.

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

Student Representatives to the Board Report (Continued)

- H. Big Spring High School will host the Area Special Olympics swim meet on Monday, March 26, 2012. Approximately 200 swimmers will be participating from six different districts. Students from Big Spring's swim teams, National Honor Society, and Club Care will serve as volunteers for the event.
- I. The cast of Into the Woods will conduct mini shows for all district students during the school days on March 28 and 29, 2012. The performances for the community are as follows: Friday, March 30, at 7:00 P.M.; Saturday, March 31, at 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.; and on Sunday, April 1, at 2:00 P.M. Tickets are \$9.00.
- J. A free Easter egg hunt is being sponsored by National Honor Society members for children up to fifth grade. The event will include a petting zoo and face painting on March 31, 2012, at 11:00 A.M.
- K. Dewey Stout competed in the State PIAA diving competition on Saturday, March 17, 2012, and finished 13th.
- L. Wyatt Keck, Dustin Rook, and Dan Hockensmith competed in the State PIAA wrestling tournament on March 9-10, 2012. Dan medaled, finishing eighth in his weight class.
- M. Spring sports are underway, with our first regular season events scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2012.
- N. 137 high school athletes are participating in baseball, softball, girls' soccer, and girls' and boys' track.
- O. 93 middle school athletes are participating in volleyball, girls' soccer, and girls' and boys' track.
- P. National Honor Society and Student Council students will volunteer their services for Youth Day of Caring sponsored by the United Way.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT (Balances as of February 29, 2012)

General Fund	\$ 14,032,367.35
Cafeteria Fund	358,341.78
Student Activity Fund	204,001.53
Capital Projects	2,994,459.58
Newville Projects	630,465.57

The Treasurer's Report showed balances as outlined above as of February 29, 2012. Motion by Gutshall, seconded by Blasco for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	\$ 986,007.59	Checks #65493-65739 and 3081201
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 119,034.91	Checks #5583-5599
Miscellaneous Fund	\$ 14,874.89	Checks #13142-13168
Total		\$ 1,119,917.39

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

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

MaryAnn Butler, Stephanie Cramer, Trisha Grace, Bob Kanc, Cindy Kanc, April Messenger, June Morgan, Adam Oldham, Ashley Oldham, Bob Over, Scott Penner, Elizabeth Richwine, Sam Sheeler, Jean Wadlinger, and Angela Wilson.

X. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD– Mrs. Elizabeth W. Richwine

Mrs. Richwine, 813 Mount Rock Road, Carlisle, PA, presented a written letter to the members of the Board of School Directors in which she outlined her concerns regarding the proposed elimination of the high school family and consumer science program and the proposed reduction of French classes at the high school from four levels to two levels. Mrs. Richwine read the letter for those in attendance. Please refer to the attached document: [03-20-2012 Elizabeth Richwine Public Comment.PDF](#).

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Scott Penner, 142 Pine Tree Drive, Newville, PA, a Big Spring resident, Big Spring graduate, Big Spring teacher, and Big Spring parent, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors on behalf of the Big Spring Education Association regarding the proposed teacher furlough.

Mr. Penner thanked the Board members for serving the Big Spring School District in what is at times a thankless and selfless role, and he added that he appreciates the hard work of the Board.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)

Mr. Scott Penner (Continued)

Mr. Penner indicated that Big Spring staff members view one another as family members, and he noted that the proposed furloughs have been “very hard, especially on our high school family.” Mr. Penner noted that Big Spring’s teachers are hard-working and student-centered, and he added that the proposal “asks us to ask someone to leave our family, effectively divorcing someone from our family.”

Mr. Penner indicated that while he understands the rationale behind the proposed furloughs, the changes are going to have a detrimental effect on students. Mr. Penner noted that class sizes would increase and that electives would be eliminated that would impact the culture of Big Spring. Mr. Penner indicated that Big Spring is a special place, and he added that “it is not every day you have an environment like Big Spring.”

Mr. Penner indicated that teachers have a sense of helplessness as educators. He stated, “Many decisions we have to make in the classrooms are not our decisions anymore. Decisions are made by people in Harrisburg.” Mr. Penner accepted some of that blame as part of a community that elects representatives who continually deliver mandates that cost school districts millions of dollars.

Mr. Penner suggested that, as educators and as Board members and as members of the community, we need to stand up and tell Harrisburg, not by writing letters, but by flooding their phones and offices and telling the representatives that we are tired of them telling us what our culture should be like at Big Spring.

Mr. Penner noted that the Board and BSEA may not always agree; however, the goal of both groups is to provide the best education possible for students. Mr. Penner added that the State is putting school districts in a situation where the decisions that are made are not the best for the students and the community.

Mr. Penner suggested that, going forward, the Board and BSEA must focus on “getting out the good” and advertise the positive things that are happening in the Big Spring School District. Mr. Penner noted that in the last five years, there have been double-digit increases in students’ scores in almost every subject area. In addition, the graduation rate has increased. Mr. Penner suggested that “we need to do a better job telling family members and neighbors that this is a special place and we should fight to keep it this way.”

Mr. Penner thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for permitting him to speak this evening.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

(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. **Mrs. Darlene Franklin** submitted her letter of resignation as a five-hour-per-day custodian at the middle school, effective June 7, 2012.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Franklin's resignation as a five-hour-per-day custodian at the middle school, effective June 7, 2012.

(ACTION ITEM)

2. **Mr. Kyle Hey** submitted his letter of resignation as middle school assistant track coach, effective immediately. Mr. Hey has also requested to assist as a volunteer for the middle school track team.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Hey's resignation as middle school assistant track coach. The administration also recommended that Mr. Hey assist as a volunteer for the middle school track team.

(ACTION ITEM)

3. **Mrs. Lucille Strub** submitted her letter of resignation as a high school learning support aide for the purpose of retirement, effective June 7, 2012.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Strub's resignation as a high school learning support aide for the purpose of retirement, effective June 7, 2012.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

4. **Mrs. Lynn Stahler**, high school learning support teacher, submitted her letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Stahler's severance allowance has been calculated and submitted to the Board for approval at this time.

As per the following calculations, Mrs. Stahler is entitled to a severance allowance in the amount of \$4,420.00, under option #2.

Option #1:

25 years of service X \$217.00 = \$5,425.00
(\$14,950.00 maximum)

Option #2:

65 unused sick leave days X \$68.00 = \$4,420.00
(\$14,950.00 maximum)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Stahler's letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement and her severance allowance of \$4,420.00 as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

5. **Mrs. Judy Creps**, high school counselor/gifted teacher, requested one and one half day of leave without pay for March 5, 2012, half day, and March 6, 2012, full day.

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. Creps' request for one and one half day of leave without pay as presented.

6. Coaching Appointment

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, athletic director, recommended the individuals listed as coaches for the spring of the 2011-2012 school year.

Jan Roberts	Middle School Assistant Track Coach
Seth Stover	Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of the above listed coaches as presented.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

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

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Norris 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, Roush, Gutshall, 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 amount in accordance with the negotiated contract.

Amanda Frankford	\$ 412.00
Justine Sieg	<u>\$ 1,236.00</u>
	\$ 1,648.00
Total	

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

C. Transportation Contract Rates with Richard Deitch for 2011-2012 (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Richard S. Deitch, Transportation Contractor for the Big Spring School District, has provided mileage information for the school buses at the start of the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Rick Gilliam, Director of Student Transportation has calculated the daily rates for transportation and the activity buses based on the mileage data. A copy of the detailed transportation rate calculations was included in the agenda.

	2010/11	2011/12			2012/13	
	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Daily</u>	▲	<u>as %</u>	<u>Est Annual</u>	
VoTech	762.53	785.59	23.06	3.0%	809.16	
Consortium	820.10	792.36	(27.74)	-3.4%	816.13	
Activity	158.55	182.66	24.11	15.2%	188.14	
Regular	8,045.05	8,405.58	360.53	4.5%	8,657.75	
Nonpub	711.38	912.78	201.40	28.3%	940.16	
Total	10,497.61	11,078.97	581.36	5.5%	11,411.34	3.0%
Annual	\$ 1,889,569.80	\$ 1,994,214.60			\$ 2,054,041.20	
PDE Cost Factor	5.08	5.16	0.075	1.5%	^3%	

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

C. Transportation Contract Rates with Richard Deitch for 2011-2012 (ACTION ITEM)
(Continued)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the 2011-2012 transportation rates as presented.

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

(ACTION ITEM)

D. Resolution for Supporting School Funding Accountability Reform for Charter Schools

The Resolution for Supporting School Funding Accountability Reform for Charter Schools will urge elected officials to support legislation that would institute equitable funding and academic accountability for all charter schools.

The resolution was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Resolution for Supporting School Funding Accountability Reform for Charter Schools as presented.

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

E. New Student Activity Account

(ACTION ITEM)

The administration received a request from the middle school principal to create a new student activity account for middle school vocal music. A completed application includes a proposed budget of \$1,650 to be earned/spent by the account.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the creation of the middle school vocal music organization and the associated student activity account under the supervision of the Middle School Principal.

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

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

F. SELECTION OF FSMC

(ACTION ITEM)

The Board and administration began discussion regarding the use of a food service management company (FSMC) in 2010. On May 16, 2011, the Board directed the administration to release a request for proposals in order to make a decision by April 1, 2012. In the fall of 2011, selected board members and administrators visited five schools using FSMCs.

On January 6, 2012, the RFP was released and the District received five proposals from Aramark, Chartwells, Metz, Nutrition, and Sodexo. The selection committee evaluated the proposals according to the award criteria specified in the Request for Proposals. The selection committee invited Aramark and Chartwells to make a subsequent presentation based on the strength of their proposals. Following the presentations, the committee made a recommendation, based primarily on total cost of the original submitted proposals, that Chartwells best meets the needs of the District.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve Chartwells (part of the Compass Group) to assume responsibility for food service operations in the District, including employees, within the rules and guidelines established by the PA Department of Education for the 2012-2013 school year. The Administration is directed to execute and obtain PDE approval of a contract with Chartwells effective July 1, 2012.

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

G. Tuition Exemption for Non-Resident Student

(ACTION ITEM)

Miss Jessica Jumper, a Big Spring High School senior, requested permission to complete her senior year at Big Spring High School as per the conditions outlined in Board Policy 202.3: "Non-resident students in the senior class may be given special consideration to continue their education in the district at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools provided they have been enrolled in the Big Spring School District a minimum of two (2) full years immediately preceding their senior year." The student is required to provide the necessary transportation

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Miss Jumper's request for a tuition exemption for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year, as per the conditions outlined in Board Policy 202.3.

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

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

H. Memorandum of Understanding

(ACTION ITEM)

The Superintendent has been working with the Big Spring Education Association to clearly define precedent and protocol for seniority determinations, certification procedures, transition to 24 pay periods, and corrections to language within the Collective Bargaining Agreement in reference to extra-curricular offerings. This Memorandum of Understanding details all of the items reviewed by the Superintendent and the Big Spring Education Association.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Big Spring Education Association.

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

(ACTION ITEM)

I. Approval of Resolution for Suspensions Due to Declining Enrollment, Curtailment and Alteration of Programs

The Board of School Directors authorized the Superintendent to review pupil enrollment figures, teacher requirements, and to prepare a plan to address staffing. This resolution defines a staffing plan based on the challenges identified during the Superintendent's review process.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors adopt the included resolution regarding suspensions due to declining enrollment, curtailment and alteration of programs.

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

Motion by Blasco, seconded by McCrea to table this item.

Director Blasco indicated that he realizes the furlough situation is a difficult issue, and he added that he would like more time to talk about this matter.

Secretary Barrick called the roll. Roll call vote on the motion by Blasco and second by McCrea to table this item: Voting Yes: Blasco, Norris, Roush, McCrea, and Wolf. Voting No: Gutshall, Piper, Barrick, and Swanson. Total Yes votes: Five (5). Total No votes: Four (4). Motion carried by a majority vote.

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 are included with the agenda.

XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM

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 meeting is slated for 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 22, 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.

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

Please refer to this evening's Finance Committee meeting minutes.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

The CAIU Board is slated to meet Thursday morning, March 22, 2012. Items on the agenda include the Hilltop and CASA programs. Approximately \$700,000 per year remains on the Hilltop lease for the next 16 years. The CASA facility costs a couple hundred thousand each year.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

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

The TCC will meet in April 2012. The transition to the new tax collection bureau has gone well. Glitches with regard to Act 32 reporting are being remedied with the assistance of the Department of Community and Economic Development.

In response to a question from Director McCrea, Mr. Fry indicated that he has no updates regarding the lawsuit filed recently involving Big Spring and the Capital Tax Collection Bureau nor does he have information regarding the appeal that is pending before the State Tax Equalization Board. Mr. Fry indicated that he would consult with the solicitor and report to the Board on these issues.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Keystone Opportunity Grant

The District should know by mid April 2012 Big Spring's status with regard to the Keystone Opportunity Grant. If Big Spring is successful, it could mean \$250,000 to \$1 million a year for five years to be used for a K-12 literacy program.

B. Big Spring Master Plan

Mr. Fred Potzer, Newville Borough Manager, and Mr. John Epley, West Pennsboro Township Manager, are working together in conjunction with the school district to create specifications for a revised Big Spring Master Plan. The original plan did not align with the intent of the municipalities. Community input will be solicited, and more information should be available next month on this issue.

C. Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Fry invited Board members to attend a meeting with Stock and Leader on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, and a PSBA meeting with local legislators on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

D. Keystone Exams

Superintendent Fry reported that Governor Corbett requested that the State Board of Education decrease the number of proposed Keystone Exams from ten to three.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

E. Difficult Times

Mr. Fry indicated that these are extremely difficult times for Big Spring School District, and he agreed with Mr. Penner that Big Spring has a family atmosphere. However, Mr. Fry indicated that the District faces significant fiscal challenges, including increases in cyber charter expenses in the coming years (\$3.9 million spent in the last 6 years with just \$538,000 in State subsidy).

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that there would be no future State subsidy to school districts for cyber charter school expenses. At a minimum in the future, Big Spring will pay \$900,000 annually in cyber charter school expenses. Big Spring's special education rate for cyber charter students is \$16,000 to \$18,000 per student, and the regular education cyber charter rate is \$9,700 to \$9,800 per student.

Mr. Fry noted that it is difficult to maintain a comprehensive high school when "we continue to get State mandates."

In addition, Mr. Fry noted that Big Spring has a steadily increasing and disproportionate number of special education students (20 percent), and special education subsidy has flat-lined in recent years.

Mr. Fry indicated that these are just a couple examples that limit a district's ability to administer at the local level.

Director Piper noted that these facts "do not show up in newspaper articles."

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Happy Spring!

Director Barrick encouraged everyone to enjoy the first day of spring.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Swanson, 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, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, April 2, 2012