

# BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016

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### 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 8:03 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; Todd Deihl; Bob Kanc; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

Kingsley Blasco was absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Assistant Superintendent; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Curtis Garland, The Valley Times-Star; Morganne Frampton, Student Representative to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

The members of the Board of School Directors met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal issues this evening from 6:41 to 7:07 P.M.

### II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

"The Star Spangled Banner" was performed by the high school chorus.

### III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 21, 2016 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE MARCH 21, 2016 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES.

Motion by Kanc, seconded by Roush for approval of the March 21, 2016 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the March 21, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

8 – 0

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## IV. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Mrs. Susan Shuey, Mrs. Lori Shover, and Mr. Adam Nobile recognized the students listed for their accomplishments.

### County Band

\*Gina Baldoni  
\*Megan Baker  
\*Phillip Barrick  
Allison Beecher  
\*Ruth Clark  
\*Skylar Diehl  
Kate Greene  
\*Brandon Mooney  
Summer Motter  
\*Jay Ni

### District Band

\*Gina Baldoni (4<sup>th</sup> time)  
\*Megan Baker  
\*Skylar Diehl (2<sup>nd</sup> time)  
Madeleine Flory (2<sup>nd</sup> time)  
Isabelle Macioce (5<sup>th</sup> time)  
\*Brandon Mooney  
Summer Motter

### District Orchestra

\*Phillip Barrick (2<sup>nd</sup> time)  
Isabelle Macioce (3<sup>rd</sup> time)

### Region Band

\*Gina Baldoni (3<sup>rd</sup> time)

### All-State Concert Band

\*Gina Baldoni (2<sup>nd</sup> time)

### Cumberland County Chorus

\*Megan Baker  
\*Maria Foust  
Alivia Hockenberry  
\*Emma Lark  
Grace Patterson  
\*Jessica Teter

### PMEA District 7 Chorus

\*Maria Foust

### District Jazz Vocal Ensemble

\*Maria Foust  
Tyler Bennett (2<sup>nd</sup> time)

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

\*Indicates those students who were present this evening.

## V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

**Morganne Frampton** presented the student report.

Please refer to the attached [report](#).

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**VI. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

General Fund

Procurement Card	\$ 29,469.17
Checks/ACH/Wires	\$2,060,783.84
Capital Projects	\$1,385,656.17
Stadium & Track Projects	\$ 31,946.80
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 4,365.34
<u>Student Activities</u>	<u>\$ 13,076.99</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,525,298.31</b>

Motion by Gutshall, seconded by Swanson for approval of General Fund Procurement Card, Checks/ACH/Wires, Capital Projects, Stadium and Track Projects, Cafeteria Fund, and Student Activities Fund payments of bills as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Piper, Diehl, and Kanc. Motion carried unanimously. 8 – 0

**VII. TREASURER'S FUND REPORT**

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

**VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools received correspondence from Special Olympics, Pennsylvania, regarding Mrs. Stephanie Weller's Upper Elementary Life Skills Class from Oak Flat Elementary School. Mrs. Weller's class was selected as this year's best design for the 2016 Area M Games t-shirts. These t-shirts will appear on over 2,500 athlete and volunteer t-shirts during the April 14<sup>th</sup> Area M Games to be held at Messiah College. The correspondence is included with the agenda.

Mr. Fry commended Mrs. Weller's class for bringing honor to the District.

In response to a request from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that he would provide a photograph of the t-shirts for the member of the Board of School Directors.

**IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Cheryl Baker, Keith Baker, Art Baldoni, Carole Baldoni, Norma Barrick, Richard Barrick, Terri Bennett, James Cohick, Rodger Diehl, Sharon Diehl, Skylar Diehl, A. Elliott, Sue Foust, Cindy Kanc, Nelson Laverty, Megan Minnick, Cheryl Mooney, Denny Mooney, Betty Moser, Adam Nobile, Beverly Orner, Jim Orner, Lori Shover, Susan Shuey, Nancy Slaseman, and William Slaseman.

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### X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. John McCrea, PO Box 341, Newville, PA 17241, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and read a poem by Robert Service entitled "The Cremation of Sam McGee."

Mr. McCrea noted that the theme of that poem is obligation, and he emphasized the sentence "Now a promise made is a debt unpaid." Mr. McCrea indicated that four years ago when the District realigned the teaching staff, Courtney Davis, a "capable, competent, and caring high school English teacher, was sent down to the minors, demoted to seventh grade because it would be best for the whole educational process in the Big Spring school system if that happened." Mr. McCrea added that he objected strenuously to the demotion; however, he objected less strenuously when Mr. Fry promised that if a high school English position opened in the near future, Ms. Davis would "get the first shot at it."

Mr. McCrea indicated that a position in the high school English department is now available in light of the retirement of Ms. Jill Davis. Mr. McCrea encouraged the Board to fulfill the obligation, the promise that Mr. Fry made four years ago, when the time comes to fill the high school English position.

On another topic, Mr. McCrea indicated that he is aware that the court hearing for approval of the sale of Mifflin Elementary School is scheduled for April 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. McCrea indicated that, in his opinion, very few residents of the District have had an opportunity to learn the time that the hearing has been scheduled because of his perceived failure of the District and the District Solicitor to honor public notice requirements in the law for advising the public about such an important hearing.

Mr. McCrea indicated that he saw the public notice in Harrisburg's The Patriot-News but not Newville's Valley Times-Star nor Carlisle's The Sentinel. Mr. McCrea added that he doubts there are many subscriptions to The Patriot-News in the 17241 ZIP code.

Mr. McCrea indicated that notice is supposed to be posted on the building or property to be sold as well in the vicinity of the property to be sold. Five handbills are required to be posted regarding the court hearing described above. Mr. McCrea drove a circle 2.5 miles north, south, east, and west of the Mifflin Elementary School on March 28, 2016, and again on April 4, 2016, and was unable to find the posting of handbills announcing the court hearing.

Mr. McCrea indicated that the District Solicitor filed an affidavit of posting on March 29, 2016, indicating that the posting which is required by the Public School Code had been met. Mr. McCrea noted that he does not believe the required posting has been met, and he questioned why that is the case.

President Wolf assured Mr. McCrea he would investigate this issue.

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### 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-9,  
following Item A-9.)**

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (ACTION ITEMS)

##### 1. Resignation - Kimberly Flood

Mrs. Kimberly Flood, Elementary Learning Support Teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School, submitted her resignation, effective the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Flood's resignation as a Elementary Learning Support Teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School, effective the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

##### 2. Resignation - Shirley Cramer

Mrs. Shirley Cramer, Middle School Seventh and Eighth Grade Learning Support Aide, submitted her resignation, effective the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Cramer's resignation as a Middle School Seventh and Eighth Grade Learning Support Aide, effective the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

##### 3. Resignation - Ryan Kelley

Mr. Ryan Kelley submitted his resignation as Head Coach for Junior High Girls Basketball, effective immediately.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Kelley's resignation as Head Coach for Junior High Girls Basketball, effective immediately.

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### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (ACTION ITEMS) (Continued)

##### 4. Resignation - John Hocker

Mr. John Hocker submitted his resignation as a Coach for Junior High Girls Basketball, effective immediately.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Hocker's resignation as a Coach for Junior High Girls Basketball, effective immediately.

##### 5. Resignation - Kristin Wiley

Ms. Kristin Wiley submitted her resignation as Head Cheerleading Coach, effective immediately. Ms. Wiley has requested to assist as a volunteer cheerleading coach.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Wiley's resignation as Head Cheerleading Coach, effective immediately and also approve Ms. Wiley's request to assist as a volunteer cheerleading coach.

##### 6. Coaching Recommendations

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director, recommended the individuals listed as coaches for the teams listed.

**Tyler Carnes Assistant Baseball Coach**  
**Don Witter Assistant Football Coach**

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

##### 7. 2015-2016 Lifeguard Recommendations

**Colin Boyd**  
**Madison Gutshall**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the individuals listed to serve as lifeguards for the 15-16 school year and during the summer months, pending receipt of all required paperwork.

##### 8. Approval of Questeq's Technology Director for Big Spring School District

Per the contract that was initiated with Questeq, the District must approve Questeq's Technology Director. The administration interviewed three (3) candidates. Mr. Robert Krepps brings a wealth of technology experience and proven performance for this position.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Robert Krepps as Questeq's Technology Director for the Big Spring School District.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (ACTION ITEMS) (Continued)**

**9. Approval of Questeq Employees for Big Spring School District**

Per the contract the Big Spring School District initiated with Questeq, the District has participated in their hiring process. Mr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent has been involved in the selection of Questeq employees. Those employees include Mr. Michael Fronk and Mr. Hunter Yingling.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the selection of the Questeq employees which include Mr. Michael Fronk and Mr. Hunter Yingling.

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

Motion by Roush, seconded by Kanc to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-9, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**B. New Business - Action Items**

**1. Fundraiser Approval**

The Newville Elementary School PTO would like to conduct the fundraiser listed for Spring, 2016.

**Race to Education**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Newville Elementary School PTO fundraiser listed for Spring, 2016, as presented.

**2. Fundraiser Approval**

Mr. Roger Young, Track Coach, requested to utilize Nomad Cuisine's mobile kitchen as a fundraiser during the 2016 track season during home track meets. The mobile kitchen has been inspected and the license is attached to this agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Young's request to utilize Nomad Cuisine's mobile kitchen for a fundraiser during the 2016 track season, as presented.

**VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, B., ITEMS 1 AND 2**

Motion by Roush, seconded by Kanc to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, B., Items B-1 and B-2, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Swanson, and Wolf. Voting No: Barrick. Total Yes votes: Seven (7). Total No votes: One (1). Motion carried by a majority vote. 7-1

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**B. New Business - Action Items (Continued)**

**3. Approval of Career and Technical Education Supplemental Equipment Grant Application Request**

Mr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent requested permission to move forward with the grant application for a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Supplemental Equipment Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The grant amount could be up to \$20,000 which will be utilized to support equipment purchases for the District's PDE approved program Agriculture Production. Information is included in the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Career and Technical Education Supplemental Equipment Grant Application request, as presented.

Motion by Roush, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

**4. Approval of Construction Payments - Capital Projects**

The District received the following payment applications for ongoing projects. Copies of the payment requests are included with the agenda.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Oak Flat PC	Honeywell	\$28,403.00	\$0
MS/MR.DAO Roof	Professional Roof Srv, Inc.	\$30,500.00	\$16,000
Mt. Rock Pave	CenterPoint Eng., Inc.	\$1,954.71	\$20,225.29
Stadium Project	Wolf Consulting Eng.	\$2,929.50	\$29,231.25

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the payments of \$28,403.00 to Honeywell, \$30,500.00 to Professional Roof Services, \$1,954.71 to CenterPoint, and \$2,929.50 to Wolf Consulting Engineers, LLC, from the Capital Project Fund.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

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### B. New Business - Action Items (Continued)

#### 5. Approve Change Order 1 for Stadium Project

After the preparation of the bid documents and after receiving bids for the project, PP&L progressed with their electric service design and informed the Design Team that the service infrastructure as shown on the bid documents could not be completed because of the length of underground secondary electrical services required. PP&L has provided an option to keep the service all underground from Schoolhouse Road. This option includes extending a new underground primary service from Schoolhouse Road to a pad mounted transformer, and then extending a new secondary service into the new mechanical room from the transformer. This new service arrangement requires additional work from Ellsworth Electric, the project Electrical Contractor.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve change order 1 to Ellsworth Electric, Inc. contract for the stadium project in the amount of \$13,298.42 and an estimated amount of \$25,000 to PP&L to provide underground electrical service for the stadium. The Business Manager is authorized to sign the service orders and take all necessary steps to implement the change order.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

#### 6. Accept Bids for Mount Rock Paving Project

The District accepted bids on the MR Paving project on Tuesday, 29 March and CenterPoint discussed in the Buildings & Property Committee this evening. After review of the bids, CenterPoint, recommended that we add the leveling course in the play area/parent loop to improve drainage (\$12,000) and the underdrain by the bus loading area (\$5,550). Assuming a 1.5" overlay,

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors accept the bid from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc., for the Mount Rock Elementary Paving project in the amount of \$210,022 and the Business Manager is authorized to sign the contract pending final Solicitor approval and take all necessary steps to implement the contract.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

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### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### B. New Business - Action Items (Continued)

##### 7. Accept Bids for MR/MS/DAO Roof Repair Project

In December 2015 the B&P committee held a meeting on roof repair throughout the District and engaged PRSI for the design & specification of those projects. For the summer of 2016, PRSI prepared and advertised for the project under the US Communities program and bids were received on Thursday, 30 March.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors accept the bid from Tecta America East in the amount of \$605,933 for the base bid, \$168,860 for the add alternate and an additional \$10,000 for additional drain or insulation replacement for a total not to exceed \$784,793 to be paid from the Capital Project fund; and the Business Manager is authorized to sign the contract and take all necessary steps to implement the project.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

##### 8. Approve Honeywell Service Contract

Included on this agenda is the final payment on the Performance Contract initiated at Oak Flat. As such, the District should have a service contract to cover the newly installed systems. It includes quarterly test & inspect for the HVAC & camera system and full coverage on the EBI system software over a 4-year period.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the four year Service Agreement with Honeywell Building Solutions for Flex Automation, Flex Security System, and full EBI Services at a cost of \$27,902 for the first year with a 3% escalation cost thereafter; the Business Manager is authorized to sign the contract pending final Solicitor approval and take all necessary steps to implement the contract.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

##### 9. Approve Renewal of the Blackboard Connect Contract

Blackboard Connect provides automated calling services to the District; this is a critical function in keeping students, parents, employees and the community informed on incidents & events in the District.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve renewal of the Blackboard Connect Services for the 2016/17 school year at a cost of \$4,370.91 and the administration authorized to sign the contract and take all necessary steps to implement the contract.

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### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### B. New Business - Action Items (Continued)

##### 9. Approve Renewal of the Blackboard Connect Contract (Continued)

Motion by Kanc, seconded by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

In response to a question from Secretary Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that all announcements require his approval before being sent. Mr. Fry added that he believes approximately 15 messages a month are sent. These messages are always tied to education and are sent to specific groups; for example, information regarding post-grad activities would be sent to the families of seniors only or information about a late bus would be sent to only those families with students on that late bus.

In response to a question from Mr. Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that Blackboard Connect is a cost-effective and user-friendly system.

Roll call vote on the motion by Kanc and second by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

##### 10. Approval to Attend State Conference and Competition

Mr. Sam Barnouski and Mr. Dwain Messersmith are requesting permission for the Big Spring Technology Student Association (TSA) to attend a state conference and competition at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania from April 13-15, 2016. Information is included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Big Spring Technology Student Association to attend a state conference and competition at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania from April 13-15, 2016.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Roush to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

##### 11. Facilities Utilization Request

Mr. Matthew Kump requested permission to use the high school soccer field from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. retroactive to April 3, 2016, and moving forward on April 17, May 1, and May 15, 2016, for Big Spring U-17 Girls Soccer. Because the utilization dates are on a Sunday, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Kump's request to use the high school soccer field from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. retroactive to April 3, 2016 and moving forward on April 17, May 1, and May 15, 2016 for Big Spring U-17 Girls Soccer, as presented.

Motion by Roush, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Voting No: Barrick. Total Yes votes: Seven (7). Total No votes: One (1). Motion carried by a majority vote. 7-1

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, April 4, 2016

### XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM

There were no future Board agenda items.

### XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. District Improvement Committee – Mr. Kanc

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered.

#### B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson, Mr. Deihl, Mr. Gutshall

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered.

The Athletic Committee is slated to meet on Friday, April 8, 2016, at 7:00 a.m.

#### C. Vocational-Technical School – Mr. Wolf, Mr. Piper

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered. This month's vo-tech school meeting was canceled.

#### D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick, Mr. Piper, Mr. Swanson, Mr. Roush, Mr. Gutshall

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

Secretary Barrick reminded Board members to complete and return state ethics forms to Mr. Fry.

#### E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco, Mr. Piper, Mr. Swanson and Mr. Gutshall

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

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered.

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

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered. President Wolf indicated that he will attend a TCC meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2016.

**XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. State Funding**

Superintendent Fry anticipates similar State funding compared with last year. There was a decrease in enrollment of seven students compared with last year. Mr. Fry expects that Governor Wolf will announce the exact state funding distribution method next week.

Mr. Fry noted that the State still owes Big Spring School District \$675,000 from the PlanCon process for this year. It is unknown whether the State will ever pay this money because it was within a veto bill for the Fiscal Code.

**B. Proposed Sale of Mifflin Elementary School**

Superintendent Fry indicated that the notice of sale and the notice of the court hearing on April 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. regarding the Mifflin Elementary School building have been posted on the front door of every building in the District.

**C. Staffing Vacancies**

Superintendent Fry indicated that several years ago, the District furloughed 12 staff members and moved some staff members to different positions within the District during the realignment. In response to Mr. McCreas's public comment regarding a personnel issue, Mr. Fry noted that the administration would never make promises about moving staff to alternate positions; however, every employee is encouraged to apply for vacant positions in which they are interested.

**D. Music Accomplishments**

Superintendent Fry commended the music department for the many accomplishments recently, especially at the district, regional, and state level. Mr. Fry thanked the music department staff for the presentation during this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting.

**E. Curriculum Review Process**

Mr. Fry indicated that the curriculum review process described by Ms. Euker this evening is unique in our area, and he is pleased that staff members are embracing the process with enthusiasm. Mr. Fry added that the curriculum revisions will be a tremendous amount of work, but staff members are excited about offering relevant courses in the future.

Mr. Fry noted that he is proud of the many accomplishments of students both in academic pursuits and athletic competitions. Big Spring is moving in the right direction. Mr. Fry indicated that, as a father, he would not want his children to attend any other school district.

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### **XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)**

#### **F. Substitute Teachers**

In response to a question from Secretary Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that he believes that the District would be in the same "substitute teacher boat" with or without Source4Teachers. The statistics are improving. At the beginning of the year, Big Spring and surrounding districts were staffing substitutes at approximately 67 to 68 percent. The current fill rate is 88 percent. When the District was self-staffing substitutes, the fill rate was 92 to 93 percent during the best months.

Another factor playing into lower substitute teacher fill rates is the fact that the State of Pennsylvania reduced the number of teaching certificates issued by 60 to 65 percent. Mr. Fry added that it would be best to gauge Source4Teachers' success three years from now, after calculating cost avoidance related to the Affordable Care Act and pension contributions.

#### **G. High School Musical**

Mr. Fry announced that the high school musical is slated for Thursday through Saturday, April 7, 8, and 9, 2016, with two shows on Saturday.

#### **H. Stock and Leader**

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that the Stock and Leader conference is scheduled for April 20, 2016. Mr. Fry noted that recently Phil Spare sent greetings from Colorado to the Big Spring School Board. Mr. Spare is now on staff with two assistants at a school district in Colorado.

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

#### **A. Town Hall**

Director Kanc invited everyone to a town hall meeting regarding opiate use at First United Presbyterian Church. Among the eight-member panel will be the district attorney, coroner, and members of the police force. Admission is free of charge. The meeting will focus on helping adults identify individuals with problems related to drugs and/or alcohol. The event is advertised on the District's website.

#### **B. Kudos to Big Spring!**

Vice President Swanson echoed Mr. Fry's earlier comments about the great things happening in the Big Spring School District. Mr. Swanson noted that he was proud his children attended Big Spring as well, and he would not have wanted them to attend any other school district.

President Wolf agreed and indicated that the PSEA director working with the Intermediate Unit has expressed her appreciation for Big Spring in the past. Mr. Wolf added that he is proud to have had children and grandchildren who have graduated from Big Spring High School. Mr. Wolf noted, "Big Spring School District is unique in many respects."

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

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Kanc, seconded by Roush to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deihl, Kanc, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously. 8-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, April 18, 2016**