

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 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 Mount 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; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Rick Gilliam, Food Service and Transportation Director; Trish Grace, The Valley Times-Star; Wade Reichelderfer and Nick Hasse, 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 Blasco offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2, 2012 BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES; THE APRIL 2, 2012 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE APRIL 2, 2012 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris for approval of the April 2, 2012 Buildings and Property Committee meeting minutes; the April 2, 2012 Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes; and the April 2, 2012 Regular Board meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

A. Student Representatives to the Board Report – Wade Reichelderfer/Nick Hasse

1. Big Spring's 32 vo-tech seniors took the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) performance tests last Friday at the vo-tech school. Test results are expected in May 2012.
2. Juniors took the PSSAs in writing today and are slated to continue the tests on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The science PSSAs will be administered next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The PSSA proctors reported excellent effort by our juniors on the reading and math sections in March.
3. During the first semester, several freshmen participated in the *Letters About Literature* writing competition. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how that author's work changed the students' way of thinking about the world or themselves. Approximately 70,000 students from across the country participated in this year's *Letters About Literature* writing contest. Freshman Jordyn Donnelly wrote to Author Jodi Picoult about her novel *My Sister's Keeper*. Jordyn's letter was recognized as the most outstanding letter from all Pennsylvania students. Students participating could also decorate the envelopes carrying their letters, and Freshman Paige Heishman's envelope is displayed on the *Letters About Literature* website.
4. On Thursday, April 12, 2012, approximately 85 students from the District participated in Special Olympics at Dickinson College. Twenty-nine high school students served as volunteers at these games.
5. The dance team held its first showcase Saturday night in the auditorium. They performed many of their routines from the last two years.
6. For the two-hour delay on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, high school teachers will have their first meetings with their five focus teams, including pathways, extra help and transitions, grading, literacy, and advisement.
7. Club Care will sponsor Operation Beautiful Week April 23 to 27, 2012. Operation Beautiful is a national initiative to end negative self-talk and put-downs by girls about themselves.
8. Fourth-quarter parent/teacher conferences are slated for Thursday, April 26, 2012, from 3:30 to 7:00 P.M.
9. April 27, 2012, is the date for the band and chorus recital.
10. On April 5, 2012, Big Spring High School Student Council members traveled to Waynesboro for the annual district conference where their head advisor, Miss Mallory Cohick, was awarded Advisor of the Year.
11. The following is the mid-season spring athletics update: girls' track, 2-2; boys' track, all losses by fewer than 10 points; varsity softball, 7-2; varsity baseball, 5-4; girls' soccer, 2-8-1.
12. In FFA news, five FFA members attended the State Legislative Leadership Conference March 18 to 20, 2012, where students were introduced to current bills in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Amanda Musselman was honored as a second-year scholar. Only six students are awarded this position. Amanda met with Representative Bloom at a breakfast and conducted a question-and-answer session at his office. Laura Ryan and Amber Hoch attended state officer candidate school on March 29, 2012, where they learned about the election process when running for FFA state office. Four FFA members attended the Cumberland County Farm Bureau's annual spring banquet on April 2, 2012, where they met local and state members of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Five students traveled recently to Mains' Dairy to help bundle trees for the Pennsylvania Conservation District.

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

B. Recognition of Academic Achievement Awards for the Third Quarter

Mr. Steven Smith recognized those students who have earned the academic achievement award for the third quarter for the 2011-2012 school year.

Grade 9	MacKenzie Miko	98.6
Grade 10	Marcus Marpoe	97.6
Grade 11	Lindsay Bower	98.0
Grade 12	Nicole Kell	97.5

Mr. Smith congratulated the students and presented them with certificates of achievement.

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

C. Recognition of Vocational-Technical School Students of the Quarter

Mr. Steven Smith, high school principal, recognized those Vocational-Technical School students who earned "Student of the Quarter" awards for the third quarter of the 2011-2012 school year.

Grade 10	*Logan Dennison	Graphic Communications
Grade 10	*Natasha Foose	Cosmetology
Grade 10	*Tiffany Grimes	American Studies
Grade 10	*Hunter Ryan	Electrical Construction
Grade 10	*Dakota Kuhn	Carpentry
Grade 10	*Noah Rife	American Studies/Automotive Collision Technology
Grade 11	*Kevin Risbon	Electronics Technology
Grade 12	*Philip Warehime	HVAC
Grade 12	Nathan Allen	Diesel Technology
Grade 12	Melissa Cronk	Advertising Art & Design
Grade 12	*Benjamin Mauchamer	Welding
Grade 12	Benjamin Mitchell	Logistics & Warehouse Management
Grade 12	*Danny Farling	Carpentry

*Denotes those students who were in attendance this evening.

Mr. Smith congratulated the students and presented them with certificates of achievement.

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

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VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	\$ 11,715,276.67
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 343,187.44
Student Activity Fund	\$ 217,299.32
Capital Projects	\$ 2,994,535.24
Newville Projects	\$ 630,551.52

The Treasurer's Report showed balances as outlined above as of March 31, 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	\$ 2,278,751.91	Checks #65741-65958, 3301201, 4011201, and 4041201
Miscellaneous Fund	\$ 7,895.95	Checks #13192-13203
Capital Projects	\$ 11,590.15	Checks #619-621
Newville Project	\$ 10,500.00	Check #199
Total	\$ 2,308,738.01	

Motion by Gutshall, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund, Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund, Capital Projects, and Newville Project payments of bills from March 26, 2012, through April 9, 2012, 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

Joey Alajoc, Billie Barrick, Dale Beer, Catherine Bitner, J. Wesley Bower, Lindsay Bower, Peggy Bower, Sheri Burke, Tom Burke, Barbara Cline, Stephanie Cramer, Charlene D'Amore, Austen Dennison, Jackie Dennison, Logan Dennison, Rodger Diehl, Sharon Diehl, Dan Farling, George Farling, Gloria Farling, Natasha Foose, M. Frampton, Trish Grace, Tiffany Grimes, Phelisha Harper, Diane Hess, Ronald Hess, Jen Ickes, Ryan James, Bob Kanc, Valerie Kanc, Kim Kell, Nicole Kell, Marcus Marpoe, April Messenger, MaryBeth Miko, Sherry Morrison, Stan Morrison, Betty Moser, Scott Penner, Jalena Petit, Karen Ponzar, Noah Rife, Bernard Risbon, Kevin Risbon, Michelle Risbon, Eugene Rodgers, Hunter Ryan, Shelley Ryan, Kathy Sarnicki, Deb Spencer, Stacy Trayler, Phil Warehime, Cindy White, and JoEllen Wiser.

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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-9,
following Item A-9.)

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Christine Tolbert, sixth-grade science teacher, requested unpaid leave of absence, retroactive to April 10, 2012, to June 8, 2012. Mrs. Tolbert intends to return to her teaching position the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Tolbert's request for unpaid leave of absence, retroactive to April 10, 2012 to June 8, 2012, as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

2. Mr. Kemal Pegram submitted his letter of resignation a Head Wrestling Coach, effective April 20, 2012.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Pegram's resignation as Head Wrestling Coach, effective April 20, 2012.

(ACTION ITEM)

3. Mr. John Weller submitted his letter of resignation as a part time custodian, retroactive to April 6, 2012. Mr. Weller requested to remain on the custodial substitute list.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Weller's resignation as a part-time custodian, retroactive to April 6, 2012 and also accept Mr. Weller's request to remain on the custodial substitute list.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

4. **Ms. Fran Stewart** submitted her letter of resignation as an instructional aide at Mount Rock Elementary School, effective immediately. Ms. Stewart has requested to be placed on the substitute aide list.

A copy of Ms. Stewart's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Stewart's resignation as an instructional aide at Mt. Rock Elementary School, effective immediately and approve Ms. Stewart's request to be placed on the substitute aide list.

(ACTION ITEM)

5. **Ms. Teresa Smith** submitted her letter of resignation as a high school cafeteria cashier, effective June 7, 2012. Ms. Smith requested to be placed on the substitute secretary list for the 2012-2013 school year.

A copy of Ms. Smith's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Smith's resignation as a High School Cafeteria Cashier, effective June 7, 2012, and also accept Ms. Smith's request to be placed on the substitute secretary list for the 2012-2013 school year.

(ACTION ITEM)

6. **Ms. Kathryn Varner**, high school art teacher, submitted her letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective September 24, 2012.

A copy of Ms. Varner's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Varner's resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective September 24, 2012.

(ACTION ITEM)

7. **Ms. Lauren Swigart** submitted her resignation as eighth grade girls' basketball coach, effective immediately. Ms. Swigart requested to remain on the coaching staff as a volunteer coach.

A copy of Ms. Swigart's resignation was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Swigart's resignation as girls' basketball coach, effective immediately and accept Ms. Swigart's request to remain on the coaching staff as a volunteer coach.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

8. Luke Nerone

Carlisle, PA 17013

Long-Term Substitute Sixth Grade Science Teacher
(replacing Christine Tolbert who is on unpaid leave)

Education:

Dickinson College (Bachelor's Degree in American Studies)

Wilson College (Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education)

Experience:

Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Nerone to serve as a Long-Term Substitute Sixth Grade Science Teacher, replacing Mrs. Christine Tolbert, who will be on unpaid leave of absence retroactive to April 10, 2012, to June 8, 2012. Mr. Nerone'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.

(ACTION ITEM)

9. Ms. Courtney Moore, high school English teacher, requested two days of leave without pay, retroactive to April 11 and 12, 2012.

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 Ms. Moore's request for two days leave without pay as presented.

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

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris 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: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Dawgs Baseball Field Utilization Agreement

(ACTION ITEM)

The members of the Board of School Directors were provided with copies of an April 2, 2012 memorandum to the Big Spring Board of School Directors and Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools at the April 2, 2012 Building and Property Committee meeting from Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, regarding a proposed Dawgs Baseball Field Utilization Agreement. Following discussion during the Building and Property Committee meeting, the proposed utilization agreement is presented for approval.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the field utilization with the Dawgs Baseball organization.

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. Tenure Status

(INFORMATION ITEM)

The following professional employee has completed the required years of service as temporary professional employee and has earned tenure based on her satisfactory performance.

Rebecca Coulson Special Education Teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School

Additional information regarding the professional employee was prepared by Mrs. Stacey Kimble, Oak Flat Elementary School Principal.

Mr. Fry noted that Ms. Coulson has performed well for the District.

D. Proposed Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA)

(DISCUSSION ITEM)

Please refer to the attached Unilever BTS LERTA Calculations document: [04-16-2012 Proposed LERTA.PDF](#).

The members of the Board of School Directors discussed at length the proposed LERTA during this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting. The proposed LERTA discussion continued at this time, and the following items were noted:

1. When the Board entered proposed LERTA discussions with the landowner, the construction timeline was different from the current timeline.
2. Big Spring contacted the landowner, and a resolution was prepared and signed by the parties; however, even with the resolution in place, it is permissible for Big Spring to act on a different plan if deemed appropriate. The solicitor advised the Board to exercise caution when proposing changes to the original parameters.
3. In a letter dated April 13, 2012, from Mr. Reid Townsend, Panattoni Development Company, to Superintendent Richard Fry, Mr. Reid indicated that Unilever has agreed to modify the original schedule to maintain 100 percent tax on the land at assessed value and tax the pending improvements at a 33.3 percent rate for the school years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018. Big Spring had suggested a 40 percent tax rate at a recent meeting.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

D. Proposed Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) (Continued) (DISCUSSION ITEM)

4. The proposed tax payment schedule attached does not include the tax on the land of approximately \$200,000.
5. A critical component in the modification was the construction framework that was delayed a year.
6. President Wolf, Vice President Swanson, Secretary Barrick, Director Blasco, Director Gutshall, Director Piper, and Director Gutshall are in favor of accepting Unilever's proposal as outlined in the attached document for 5-year straight line 33 percent to establish goodwill in the community and attract other businesses to the District in an effort to create a larger tax base. Mr. Piper noted that the Board has made the statement in the past that we are willing to participate in LERTAs to attract businesses to the District. Mr. Piper added that, in his opinion, If we deter warehouse owners on the horizon, we may lose tax dollars that they would have generated in the future.
7. Director McCrea and Director Roush preferred acceptance of the 5-year straight line 40 percent calculation. Mr. McCrea noted that, in his opinion, "we owe it to the other District property owners to get the most we can out of this property owner." Mr. McCrea indicated that, in his opinion, "dollars are the issue, as many as we can possibly get and still go forward."
8. Mr. Fry noted that there is future development on the horizon, and he cautioned that the manner in which the District proceeds would be a matter of record and would be considered by prospective developers.
9. Mr. Fry added that Unilever is an established business with the goal of occupying the building as soon as it is completed.
10. Unilever expects to create 175 new jobs when the facility opens.
11. Mr. Piper noted that there are two other proposed development sites in this area for which deals have not yet been signed, and he cautioned that business owners talk with each other and share positive and negative experiences in the building process. Mr. Piper added that if the prospective developers hear of a negative experience with Big Spring, they could choose to build elsewhere. Mr. Kerr indicated that there are areas the prospective developers could build in the Shippensburg Area School District.
12. Mr. Swanson added that Solicitor Spare warned the Board "not to set an example that we are not business friendly."
13. Mr. Fry indicated that in the Resolution the Board passed in September, it was clear that if the construction time table changes, the Board could adopt a modified exemption schedule; however, the Board must consider the consequences of modifying the exemption schedule.
14. Mr. Swanson noted that Unilever was going to appeal the tax assessment; however, they chose not to appeal the assessment in light of the LERTA proposal. Mr. Fry added that Unilever agreed not to appeal the real estate assessment during the term of the LERTA; however, that agreement is not a binding, written agreement.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

D. Proposed Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) (Continued) (DISCUSSION ITEM)

Mr. Fry indicated that he would prepare a communication to Unilever regarding the Board's comments this evening, and he added that this LERTA item would be included as an action item on the Board agenda in May.

E. 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.

Mr. Kerr indicated that earned income tax collections are consistent with collections two years ago, not last year, and he noted that it is "looking like we might get through the tax collection transition with less damage than expected."

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.

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

Newville Elementary School Roof Replacement (ACTION ITEM)

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Roush to approve this item as an action item and authorize Garland/DBS, Inc., to proceed with the Newville Elementary School roof replacement contained in the base bid of Proposal 25-PA-12043, as presented to the Board, and accomplished within the Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. Payment shall be made to Garland/DBS, Inc., in the total amount of \$556,653, with \$539,652 coming from the Newville Project Fund and \$17,001 from the Capital Projects Fund. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

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 IU continues to struggle with decisions regarding the leases for Hilltop, CASA, and the Wormleysburg facility. Executive directors and superintendents from all 24 IU entities are slated to meet next week to discuss options for addressing these leases. Mr. Fry noted that it is a contentious, stressful situation regarding these leases.

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

President Wolf indicated that the transition to the new tax collection bureau is going well. The entity plans to move into the second floor of a new building near the Cumberland Valley campus. The facility would provide more room and would be more centrally located than the present location.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Board Meeting Date Change

(ACTION ITEM)

The administration requested a change in the June 2012 Board meeting date to facilitate timely approval of the 2012-2013 General Fund budget.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Blasco to approve this item as an action item and authorize the administration to proceed with the actions necessary to move the June 4, 2012 Board meeting to June 11, 2012. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Norris, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fry noted that approval of the tentative 2012-2013 General Fund budget would be addressed May 7, 2012, with final approval slated for June 11, 2012.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

B. Pennsylvania Congressional Redistricting

Superintendent Fry indicated that the Legislative Reinforcement Commission has once again proposed changes in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' district boundaries. In the proposal, most of the Big Spring School District remains in the 199th Congressional District with Representative Stephen Bloom; however, Cooke, North Newton, and South Newton Townships are now within the boundaries of 193rd Congressional District with Representative Will Tallman.

C. Safe Routes to School

Superintendent Fry indicated that the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project in the area of Newville Elementary School should go out for bids this summer unless additional changes are required by PennDOT.

D. Keystone Opportunity Grant

Mr. Fry reported that Big Spring was not a recipient of the Keystone Opportunity Grant. Only two school districts in our nine-county area were awarded the grants: West Perry and Greencastle. Mr. Fry noted the neither Philadelphia nor Harrisburg School Districts were successful applicants for the grant.

E. Proposed Retreat

Superintendent Fry recommended that representatives from West Pennsboro Township, the Newville Borough Council, and Big Spring School District consider attending a retreat to address the future of the community. Mr. Fry indicated that he would propose dates in June 2012 for the event.

F. PSSA and Keystone Exam Update

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that the PSSAs would not be in effect for the 2012-2013 school year. The three Keystone Exams that will be in effect are: Algebra I, biology, and literature. Mr. Fry noted that this information is subject to change. Governor Corbett reduced the State Board of Education's proposal of ten keystones to three keystones.

The advantage to the Keystone Exams is that the tests would be administered immediately following a student's completion of that course.

School Districts have already spent \$4.6 million in support of the Keystone Exams. Mr. Fry indicated that he suspects all ten of the Keystone Exams could be required by 2020. Mr. Fry indicated that, while he prefers to have statewide assessments measuring proficiency in these subjects, he would have concerns if the State ties the scores to a graduation requirement.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

F. PSSA and Keystone Exam Update (Continued)

Mr. Fry noted that he believes that three Keystone Exams functioning in lieu of the PSSAs would better serve students. For example, a student who takes Algebra I in seventh or eighth grade would take the Keystone Exam immediately following the course. Testing on this subject immediately is more relevant than waiting until Grade 11 to be tested on material learned in seventh or eighth grade.

In response to a question from Mr. Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that the proposal states that the Keystone Exams would not be used as a graduation requirement until 2017; however, the tests could be used to establish federal AYP before that time. The federal guidelines for AYP indicate that a student must be tested sometime in high school. Currently, the State has chosen Grade 11 for high school PSSAs.

Mr. Fry indicated that he believes Big Spring would be ready to administer the online Keystone Exams in the three subject areas by the required time.

Mr. Fry indicated that he would continue to update the Board on this issue because the State's testing plan changes frequently.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Vote!

Director Barrick encouraged everyone to vote in the primary election on April 23, 2012.

B. Land Zoning

In response to a question from Director McCrea, Mr. Fry indicated that the administration has no recommendation for the Board with regard to an agricultural zoning issue for land owned by a neighboring property to the Big Spring School District. Mr. Fry noted that a communication from Cumberland County was received in the District on April 10, 2012, indicating that Big Spring must report intentions to appear before Cumberland County to contest the zoning by April 9, 2012.

Mr. McCrea noted that the District could argue that the Cumberland County notice is deficient, and he added that it is unfortunate that Big Spring can do nothing to stop Cumberland County's actions in this matter.

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XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR (Continued)

C. Midnight Ride of Paul Revere

Director McCrea encouraged everyone to enjoy the celebration of the anniversary of the midnight ride of Paul Revere on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

D. Thank you, Coach Pegram!

Vice President Swanson encouraged everyone to read the resignation letter from Coach Kemal Pegram. Mr. Swanson noted that the District lost a wonderful coach who would be missed by many.

Superintendent Fry indicated that Coach Pegram was a good coach; however, he is an even better teacher and better father.

President Wolf indicated that he appreciates that Coach Pegram has chosen to focus on being a father right now.

Mr. Fry confirmed that all varsity coaches select the coaching staff; therefore, there could be all new wrestling coaches next year. Mr. Fry indicated that Mr. Hockenbroch would work with the Athletic Committee in setting the protocol for the next varsity wrestling coach.

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 Roush to adjourn to Executive Session to address personnel and legal 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 8:54 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, May 7, 2012