

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

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 8:08 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; David Gutshall; 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; Rick Sample, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Steve Smith, High School Principal; Alyssa Jones, Student Representative 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.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 15, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, THE AUGUST 15, 2011, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES AND THE AUGUST 15, 2011, BUILDING AND PROPERTY MEETING MINUTES.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Lopp for approval of the August 15, 2011 Buildings and Property Committee Meeting Minutes; the August 15, 2011 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the August 15, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS – Alyssa Jones

- A. Recently Mr. Smith shared with the high school students the PSSA results that show the best performance year as a school as follows: reading, 59.1 percent proficient (+3.1 percent), second best score ever; math, 57.9 percent proficient (+10.2 percent), best score ever; writing, 73.5 percent proficient (-1 percent), second best score ever. The high school achieved AYP in reading and math but did not make AYP in IEP reading or math; therefore, the school continues to be on the State's warning list.
- B. Approximately 75 percent of the students who were "on the fence" and completed Study Island last year scored proficient on the PSSAs.
- C. This year there have been significant increases in advanced-placement courses (69 percent), dual-enrollment courses (43 percent), and honors courses (82 percent). Mr. Smith commended the juniors and seniors at their class meetings for enrolling in more challenging courses.
- D. Mr. Smith commended the sophomores at their class meeting for the following: best attendance in the high school last year as freshmen; record low number of disciplinary referrals compared with prior freshmen classes; and 187 freshmen completed Algebra I last year, approximately double the number of freshmen completing Algebra I in previous years.
- E. The enrollment at the beginning of school was 951 students. The largest class is the sophomores with 267 students, and the smallest class is the juniors with 222 students.
- F. Student Council members hosted a new-student luncheon on August 18, 2011. Thirty new students joined the District this year. Student Council members answered the new students' questions and offered building tours.
- G. The Student Council sponsored a kickoff dance that was attended by 300 to 400 students.
- H. Back-to-School Night is slated for Wednesday, September 7, 2011. Parents have the opportunity to meet with students' teachers and visit classrooms to learn the teachers' expectations.
- I. This year's fall play, Pinocchio, is slated for November 11, 12, and 13, 2011. Tryouts are this week.
- J. By the beginning of October, parents and students should have access to the teacher pages. All teachers will have webpages accessible by students and parents.
- K. The Pennsylvania State FFA organization has designated the Big Spring FFA as the top FFA chapter in the state.
- L. Channel 8 will feature Big Spring during Football Friday highlights after the home game with Northern on October 28, 2011.
- M. The following are high school fall sports statistics: varsity and junior varsity football, 45; varsity and junior varsity boys' soccer, 28; field hockey, 29; volleyball, 20; golf, 12 boys and girls; and cross country, 13 boys and 14 girls.
- N. The following are middle school fall sports statistics: football, 35; boys' soccer, 17; field hockey, 34; and cross country, 9 boys and 9 girls.

President Wolf thanked Miss Jones for the report.

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VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	\$ 514,896.38	Checks 63131-63292, MFCC1-MFCC5, 810111, and D0000014-D0000025
Miscellaneous Fund	\$ 17,733.08	Checks #12786-12801
Newville Project	\$ 25,008.66	Checks #184-186
Capital Projects	\$ 36,038.75	Checks #581-586
Total	\$ 593,676.87	

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund, Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund, and Newville Project; and Capital Projects payments of bills as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, 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

Linda Bowles, Mike Fronk, April Messenger, Dave Roberts, and Brandie Shatto

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-14,
following Item A-14.)**

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teachers

(ACTION ITEM)

Kirstin Bishop	Elementary Education
Carrie Gutshall	Elementary Education
Kathryn Kane	Elementary Education/Math 7-9
Lisbeth Kelley	Biology
Chelsey Long-Piper	Elementary Education
Chad Shipp	Social Studies 7-12
Alyssa Webster	Math 7-12

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

(ACTION ITEM)

- 2. Mrs. Susan Lyons,** Middle School Gifted Support Teacher, submitted her letter of resignation as Odyssey of the Mind Coach, effective immediately.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Lyons' resignation as Odyssey of the Mind Coach, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

- 3. Mrs. Katie Sands,** Third Grade Teacher at Mount Rock Elementary School, submitted her letter of resignation as Quiz Bowl Coach at Newville Elementary, effective immediately.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Sands' resignation as Newville Elementary Quiz Bowl Coach, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

- 4. Mrs. Heather Schwartzmiller,** Fifth Grade Teacher at Mount Rock Elementary School, submitted her letter of resignation as Quiz Bowl Coach, effective immediately.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Schwartzmiller's resignation as Quiz Bowl Coach, effective immediately.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

5. **Mrs. Wendy Young**, First Grade Teacher at Newville Elementary School, submitted her letter of resignation as Quiz Bowl Coach, effective immediately.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Young's resignation as Quiz Bowl Coach, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

6. **Ms. Lavona Gutshall**, Oak Flat Elementary Cafeteria Manager, submitted her letter of resignation as Oak Flat Elementary Cafeteria Manager, effective immediately.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Gutshall's resignation as Oak Flat Cafeteria Manager, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

7. **Ms. Krista Lupfer** District Speech and Language Teacher, requested three days of leave without pay for September 14, 15, 16, 2011.

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. Lupfer's request for three days of leave without pay as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

- 8 **Karen Cunningham**
Carlisle, PA 17015

Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher
(replacing Heather Shepard, who will be on child-rearing leave)

Education:

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

Experience:

Big Spring School District – Long-Term Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Cunningham to serve as a Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School, beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, replacing Mrs. Shepard, who will be on child-rearing leave of absence from approximately October 11, 2011, through December 16, 2011. Ms. Cunningham's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, Step 1, year 2, \$41,551.00, 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)

9. Quiz Bowl Coaches

(ACTION ITEM)

The individuals whose names are listed below were recommended to serve as Quiz Bowl Coaches for Oak Flat Elementary School for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Michelle Holtry
Amy Lehman
Phil Fassl
Jennifer Heishman**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of the Quiz Bowl Coaches as presented.

10. Special Education Aide

(ACTION ITEM)

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a Special Education Aide at the Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year replacing Kathy Lysher, who was released from the position because she did not meet the requirements for instructional paraprofessionals under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Jill Barrick

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Jill Barrick.

11. 2011-2012 Additional Bus Driver for Deitch Busing

(ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Tonya Armolt

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors acknowledge the addition of Ms. Armolt as a bus driver for the 2011-2012 school year, pending all required paperwork.

12 Substitute Custodian

(ACTION ITEM)

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

Ms. Reshendalene Deihl

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Ms. Deihl to the substitute custodial list.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

13. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Julie Friscia

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Julie Friscia, First Grade Teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School, requested leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act from approximately November 24, 2011, through approximately March 16, 2012. According to Section 3.08 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the District, a professional employee may request up to one year of child-rearing leave upon the birth of a child. In addition to the duration of the leave period, her request meets all provisions for a child-rearing leave according to the current contract.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Friscia's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence from approximately November 24, 2011, through approximately March 16, 2012.

14. Coaching Appointments

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director, recommended the individuals listed for the coaching positions and volunteer team physician listed for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Courtney Mayberry
Sarah Hurley
Michael Reifsnyder
Justin Morris
Dr. Joseph Pion**

**Volunteer Field Hockey Coach
Volunteer Field Hockey Coach
Volunteer Cross Country Coach
Assistant Wrestling Coach
Volunteer Team Physician**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the coaching appointments and volunteer team physician listed for the 2011-2012 school year, pending all required paperwork.

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

Motion by Norris, seconded by Blasco to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-14, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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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 Brown	\$ 1,161.00
Mallory Cohick	\$ 2,400.00
Amy Craig	\$ 350.00
Charlene D'Amore	\$ 425.70
Tracey Feldbauer	\$ 2,322.00
Megan Frantz	\$ 1,161.00
Anne Fulker	\$ 350.00
Michael Ginter	\$ 2,322.00
Kassandra Gordon	\$ 2,400.00
Jennifer Heishman	\$ 3,600.00
Noelle King	\$ 1,161.00
Jocelyn Kraus	\$ 350.01
Nicholas Losiewski	\$ 4,644.00
Leslie Lynch	\$ 1,161.00
Rachel Myers	\$ 1,200.00
Marie Nye	\$ 980.01
Kevin Roberts	\$ 1,200.00
Sarah Roller	\$ 3,483.00
Valerie Sauter	\$ 1,161.00
Jillian Schreffler	\$ 1,200.00
Lauren Swigart	\$ 1,161.00
Susan Shuey	\$ 894.00
Stephanie Weller	\$ 3,600.00
Deborah Whitmoyer	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>
Total	<u>\$ 39,886.72</u>

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, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

(NOTE: The Board addressed XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items C and D, following Item D.)

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

C. Oak Flat Elementary School PTO Annual Audit

The Big Spring School District received a copy of a letter from Ms. Trina Manetta advising that Oak Flat Elementary School PTO's records are in good order and accurately reflect the financial transactions for the 2010-2011 school year.

A copy of the letter from Ms. Manetta was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept the 2010-2011 Oak Flat Elementary School PTO's annual audit report as presented.

D. Newville Elementary School PTO Annual Audit

(ACTION ITEM)

The Big Spring School District has received a copy of a letter from Ms. Karen Heishman advising that Newville Elementary School PTO's records are in good order and accurately reflect the financial transactions for the 2010-2011 school year.

A copy of the letter from Ms. Heishman was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept the 2010-2011 Newville Elementary School PTO's annual audit report as presented.

VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, ITEMS C AND D

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Lopp to approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items C and D, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

E Tuition Exemption for Non-Resident Student

(ACTION ITEM)

Miss Jessica Miller, Big Spring High School senior, requested 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 parents are required to provide the necessary transportation.

Jessica Miller Grade 12

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

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

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

F. Job Description

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent, developed the job description listed below. A copy of the job description was included with the agenda.

Director of Special Services

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the updated job description as presented.

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

G. 2011-2012 School Police and Community Service Officers' Roster (ACTION ITEM)

Newville Police Chief Randy Finkey submitted a list of the names of recommended school police officers and community service officers for the 2011-2012 school term.

A copy of the list was included with the agenda for Board review.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the 2011-2012 school police and community service officers' roster as presented. In turn, the administration will take the necessary steps to ensure that Big Spring's 2011-2012 school police and community service officers' roster is approved by Cumberland County Court.

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

H. District Consent Internet Access and Usage Policy Form

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Kevin Roberts submitted an updated District Consent Internet Access and Usage Policy Form for board review and approval.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the updated District Consent Internet Access and Usage Policy Form as presented.

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

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Roberts indicated that this form is available online for parents to print and complete; however, online completion and submission of the form is not yet available.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

H. District Consent Internet Access and Usage Policy Form

(ACTION ITEM)

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Fry indicated that the Internet Access and Usage Policy is updated annually, and he added that the use of social media is included in this year's policy.

Mr. Roberts added that students would violate the policy if they access on their cell phones during school hours websites prohibited by the District.

Mr. Fry noted that the use of the camera or video camera on cell phones is prohibited as well.

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

I. High School Electrical Repairs

(ACTION ITEM)

Based on a review conducted by GR Sponaugle, there are several electrical items in the High School that should be repaired to meet current code and address some safety issues. These repairs would begin at 6 pm on Friday, October 7th and conclude prior to start of school on Tuesday, October 11th. These repairs require a complete power down at the High School and require it to be vacated until repairs are complete. The items to be addressed are included with the Board packet and include the quote from Sponaugle plus the cost of the transient voltage suppressor.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors authorize the electrical repairs at the high school included with the Board packet under a PA COSTARS contract with GR Sponaugle and that Capital Project fund pay for the repairs not to exceed \$48,000.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Blasco to table this item. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Proposed Job Descriptions

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent, developed the job descriptions listed below. A copy of the job descriptions was included with the agenda.

**Administrative Assistant for Transportation and Accounts Payable
Administrative Assistant for the District Office
HVAC Maintenance Technician**

After the job descriptions have been reviewed by the Board of School Directors and the administration, the administration will present the job descriptions for Board approval at the September 19, 2011 Board meeting.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

K. Tenure Status

(INFORMATION ITEM)

The following professional employees have completed the required years of service as temporary professional employees and have earned tenure based on their satisfactory performance.

Rachel Myers	Elementary Music Teacher
Lindsay Graham	Kindergarten Teacher
Katie Sands	Grade Three Teacher
Mallory Cohick	High School English Teacher
Lauren Hetrick	High School Social Studies Teacher
Ashley Oldham	High School Spanish Teacher
Justine Sieg	High School Business Teacher

Additional information regarding the professional employees have been prepared by Mrs. Stacey Kimble, Oak Flat Elementary School Principal; Mrs. Linda Slusser, Mount Rock Elementary School Principal; Mr. William August, Newville Elementary School Principal; and Mr. Steven Smith, High School Principal.

(INFORMATION ITEM)

L. Updated Homeschooling/Home Education Policy

Mr. Kevin Roberts submitted an updated Home Schooling/Home Education and Curricular/Extracurricular Home Education Students Policies.

The updated Home Schooling/Home Education and Curricular/Extracurricular Home Education Students Policies are included with the agenda. The updated policies will be an Action Item on the September 6, 2011 School Board Agenda.

Mr. Fry indicated that this policy reflects the District's current procedures with regard to homeschooling and home education. These students are permitted to participate in all extracurricular and cocurricular activities. The State's home education policy prohibits those students from participating in cocurricular activities; however, Big Spring prefers to allow this participation.

XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM

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.

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XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

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

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

(ACTION ITEM)

Roof Issues at Oak Flat Elementary School and Mount Rock Elementary School

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Blasco to direct the administration to contract with Garland DBS under the U.S. Communities intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement to repair 6 wet areas identified on an IR scan (3 areas at Oak Flat Elementary School and 3 areas at Mount Rock Elementary School) and to repair the entire Oak Flat Elementary School roof by fixing loose fabric, fixing drains, and refurbishing with White-Knight coating, thereby extending the warranty by 15 years at a cost not to exceed \$450,000.00. The project would be paid from the \$1.1 million remaining of the October 5, 2010, Plainfield/Newville Elementary School project borrowing. Those monies must be used by October 5, 2013. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The new CAIU executive director, Dr. Mary Jane Gales, began her duties and has started to meet with committee members.

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Student Enrollment

Enrollment for the third day of school was 2,801 students, a decrease of 69 students compared with last year and a decrease of 444 students over a ten-year period. This year's enrollment is in line with the State's projections. If the State's projections continue to be accurate, Big Spring's enrollment would be 2,600 students in six years, at which point the enrollment begins to increase.

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Fry indicated that approximately two years ago the State projected that the District's student enrollment would decrease. The enrollment projections are based on live births and the census. The projections do not account for new housing developments nor families emigrating from urban areas.

Mr. Fry noted that most families moving into the area recently do not have school-aged children. Mr. Fry added that although he could envision the District's enrollment being less than the State projections, this year the kindergarten enrollment was 15 students more than the State projection.

Mr. Fry indicated that 60 percent of the properties in the borough of Newville are rental properties that have a significant impact on school enrollment.

B. First Week of School – Success!

Mr. Fry reported that, even with the closure of an elementary school, the addition of a full-service kitchen at Mount Rock Elementary School, and 75 percent of the bus routes redrawn, it was the smoothest opening of the school year in many years, given the challenges that were faced. Mr. Fry commended the staff and administration for "spending an inordinate amount of time to ensure we got over the hump" of the first week of school.

C. Student Cell Phone Use

Mr. Fry indicated that Big Spring has granted students permission to use cell phones during school hours between classes and during lunch. Mr. Fry noted that staff members have reported that for the most part students have been abiding by the policy.

Mr. Fry added that teachers are permitted to incorporate the use of cell phones into lesson plans.

Mr. Fry indicated that nearly 40 percent of the disciplinary referrals at the high school in the past few years were for cell phone violations. The new policy would nearly eliminate those incidents. Cell phone use is prohibited in the locker rooms, restrooms, and classrooms (unless part of the lesson). Cell phone cameras and cell phone video recorders are prohibited.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

C. Student Cell Phone Use

Mr. Smith agreed and added that 450 students in the past four years have served in-school suspension because of cell phone violations. Mr. Smith equated cell phone texting with passing notes.

Mr. Smith indicated that students were instructed in the appropriate use of cell phones during their class meetings, and they were told that this is a "pilot policy" that could be changed next year if there are excessive violations of the policy. Violations of the cell phone policy result in in-school suspension.

Mr. Smith added that cell phone use has been much less prevalent than he expected, and he noted that he would report to the Board on this issue in a couple months.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Smith indicated that he believes cyber bullying would be reported by students now that cell phones are permitted. In the past students were hesitant to report cell phone incidents because the devices were prohibited during school hours. In prior years if a student received a threatening text, the student might not have reported it because they were accessing the phone during school hours, which was a violation of the cell phone policy at that time. Mr. Smith predicted that the new policy would provide the atmosphere for more openness and communication about these issues among students and staff.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that students have only five minutes free between classes, which is hopefully not enough time for students to share test information via cell phones.

In response to a question from Director Piper, Mr. Smith indicated that cell phone violations are not of the level of disciplinary action that is reported to the State. The incidents reportable to the State are those that are reportable to the police.

President Wolf thanked Mr. Fry and Mr. Smith for reporting to the Board on the updated cell phone policy.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Opening Day for Teachers

Director Piper congratulated Mr. Fry for his excellent presentation to staff members on the opening day for teachers. Mr. Piper thanked Mr. Fry for his outstanding efforts to improve the Big Spring School District.

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XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR (Continued)

B. Constitution Day

Director Barrick announced that Saturday, September 17, 2011, is Constitution Day.

In response to a question from Mr. Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that there is no special activity planned for September 16, 2011, to recognize Constitution Day. Mr. Fry noted that the former governor and first lady were proponents of Constitution Day activities.

C. Grandparents' Day and Patriot Day

Director Barrick indicated that Grandparents' Day and Patriot Day are both celebrated on Sunday, September 11, 2011. Mr. Barrick noted that there would be a special observance at the Newville fountain on September 11, 2011.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, September 19, 2011