

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

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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 8:00 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Seven (7) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; Sandra Rosenberry Deaver; Richard Norris, and William Piper.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary, joined the meeting in progress at 8:08 p.m.

Richard Roush was absent.

Others in attendance: Richard Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Rick Gilliam, Food Service and Transportation Director; Travis Gilbert, Student Representative to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met in Executive Session this evening from 7:36 p.m. to 7:57 p.m.

### **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 17, 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES; THE AUGUST 17, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES; THE AUGUST 19, 2009 ACT 34 NEWVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HEARING MEETING MINUTES; AND THE AUGUST 19, 2009 ACT 34 PLAINFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HEARING MEETING MINUTES.**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris for approval of the August 17, 2009 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; the August 17, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; the August 19, 2009 Act 34 Newville Elementary School hearing Meeting Minutes; and the August 19, 2009 Act 34 Plainfield Elementary School Hearing Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Deaver, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS**

**Student Representatives to the Board Report - Douglas Kennedy and Travis Gilbert**

Mr. Gilbert offered the following report:

1. The beginning of the school year went smoothly for students and staff.
2. The Student Council hosted a kick-off dance in front of the high school. The event featured a DJ and a campfire where students were invited to make s'mores.
3. The football team defeated Boiling Springs in the first game of the season.
4. Students were excited to hear President Obama's address to students today regarding the importance of a good education.

Mr. Gilbert is a student representative to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, and he reported that he appreciates having the opportunity to serve in this capacity. The hot topic facing Pennsylvania's schools at this time is the Keystone Exams.

Mr. Gilbert indicated that he plans to launch a telephone campaign and conduct townhall sessions at high schools to lobby for increased student representation on school boards across the state. Among the items included for discussion at the townhall sessions would be the Keystone Exams, wellness, and student health.

Mr. Gilbert indicated that he would attend the annual State Board meeting, visit several high schools in November, and attend a conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils.

President Wolf thanked Mr. Gilbert for the report and commended him for representing Big Spring School District in this capacity.

**VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**General Fund Account Payment of Bills; Central Treasury Athletic, Cafeteria, and Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account Payment of Bills; and the Capital Reserve Account Payment of Bills**

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Deaver for approval of General Fund Account checks #55045-55333 and voided checks #55302-55303 totaling \$502,261.80; Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13217-13228 totaling \$10,453.26, Central Treasury Cafeteria Account checks #4627-4654 totaling \$48,688.17, and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #10328-10342 totaling \$4,856.49; and Capital Reserve Account check #543 totaling \$158,850.99. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Cafeteria, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$725,110.71. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Deaver, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no reading of correspondence.

**IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Steve Fosburg.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- A. Mr. Steve Fosburg**, 5 Irish Gap Road, Newville, PA, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and indicated that he has provided to Mr. Kerr information gathered from the Internet regarding the estimated cost per square foot for constructing a new elementary school. Mr. Fosburg indicated that he believes the District could build a new Plainfield Elementary School for 40 percent less than the cost estimated by McKissick Associates.

Mr. Fosburg indicated that McKissick Associates uses the US Green Building Council, allegedly affiliated with the worldwide organization World Building Green Council. Mr. Fosburg indicated that, in his opinion, the efforts of these organizations are “much more than just showing us and directing us how to build green. Their efforts are more in the area of socialism.” Mr. Fosburg indicated that much of the information he discovered about the councils were from a Marxist website.

Mr. Fosburg indicated that, while he supports clean air and clean water, he believes there is a trend for radical organizations and groups to have “tied themselves to the green group and that there are a lot of socialist, Marxist attitudes about how an economy should be handled.”

Mr. Fosburg questioned the motives of President Obama and former Vice President Al Gore with regard to the environment.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fosburg indicated that he believes the Plainfield Elementary School could be constructed at a cost of approximately \$6 million if it were not under the adage that it must be a green building. Mr. Fosburg questioned the benefit of spending \$3 million or \$4 million more than necessary “for a plaque that says we’re green.” Mr. Fosburg indicated that \$4 million would purchase “a lot of oil and a lot of electricity,” and he added that he is “uncomfortable with the whole green concept.”

President Wolf indicated that if Mr. Fosburg’s assessments were correct, the Board should “do a deeper investigation into the dollar figures.” Mr. Wolf indicated that the sense of the Board was that going green was going to be a cost savings in the long term, although the project would have a higher initial cost.

Mr. Fosburg noted that although there might be a cost savings in the future, in his opinion, there would be so many advances in technology in the coming years that the equipment could be obsolete before the savings would be realized.

President Wolf indicated that the Board would not argue with Mr. Fosburg’s statement that “a school is for learning and does not have to be a school for architectural awards.”

Mr. Fosburg questioned why the residents of the Big Spring School District should pay \$4 million more than necessary to have a good school.

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**X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)**

**A. Mr. Steve Fosburg (Continued)**

President Wolf indicated that the Board would investigate the information Mr. Fosburg provided to Mr. Kerr and use it as a guide in the decision-making process.

Vice President Swanson questioned how an architect's estimate in Mr. Fosburg's research could be \$30 or \$40 per square foot less than the cost of McKissick Associates' proposed Plainfield Elementary School cost. Mr. Swanson indicated that there could be government-mandated items that would drive up the cost of public school building construction that Mr. Fosburg is unaware.

Mr. Wolf indicated that the Board would need to determine if the cost comparison was comparing "apples to apples."

Superintendent Fry indicated that Mr. Kerr did some investigation into this issue as well and would report his findings to the Board.

President Wolf thanked Mr. Fosburg for his comments, and he indicated that the Board would review the information provided.

**B. Mr. Travis Gilbert, 650 Roxbury Road, Newville, PA, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and outlined the following opinions and recommendations for educational improvement for the high school:**

1. The driver's education program offered for students in Grade 10 now lasts nine weeks. It would appear that the material could be covered adequately in three weeks. The information covered in the remaining six weeks (primarily movies) is repetitive and a "waste of educational time."
2. Students in Grade 11 are assigned to a class entitled Career Project Seminar where they learn to create a resume and learn interviewing skills. Because the majority of students in Grade 11 already have secured a job by 16 years of age, this class would be more suitable for students in Grade 10. It would be helpful for students to learn these skills before seeking a job.
3. The Keyboarding and Careers class has had significant improvements in recent years; however, it may not be necessary for students in Grade 9 to have this class because they have keyboarding classes in Grades 6, 7, and 8. Most students gain typing experience at home while instant-messaging and typing messages on the various social networks like Facebook and MySpace. Again, this course could be considered a waste of educational time. The three-page assignment regarding a career path that is part of this course should be administered to students in Grade 8 when they are choosing an academic path. It would be helpful for students to do an in-depth investigation of potential careers before selecting courses for Grade 9.
4. The significant work on the high school graduation project is to be applauded; however, additional improvements are necessary for this assignment. An effort should be made to tie the graduation project with community service. This would encourage students to investigate points of individual interest in the community on which to build the project, experience a "real-life situation," and enhance the community simultaneously. For instance, a student who has a passion for skateboarding could build a project around organizing a group and fundraising to improve the town's skate park.

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**X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)**

**B. Mr. Travis Gilbert (Continued)**

Superintendent Fry indicated that the administration has taken note of Mr. Gilbert's suggestions, and he added that many of Mr. Gilbert's suggestions are being addressed in the high school restructuring plan. A Board report on the high school restructuring is slated for December 2009.

In response to a question from Director Norris, Mr. Fry indicated that the government mandates the classroom hours for the driver's education class.

President Wolf thanked Mr. Gilbert for his comments and suggestions.

**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-19,  
following Item A-19.)**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

**1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teacher **(ACTION ITEM)****

**Deborah Tewell ~ Elementary Education/History**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the addition of Ms. Tewell to the 2009-2010 per diem substitute teacher list as presented.

**2. Additional Per Diem Substitute Guest Teacher **(ACTION ITEM)****

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

**Anderson Edey**

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

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

**(ACTION ITEM)**

3. **Mrs. Megan Pipp**  
Newville, PA 17241

Long-Term Substitute Itinerant Emotional Support  
Teacher at Mt. Rock Elementary School  
(replacing Mrs. Jennifer Tomasov  
who will be on child-rearing leave)

**Education:**

Shippensburg University - Bachelor of Science Degree, Elementary Education/Social Studies

**Experience:**

Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Pipp to serve as a Long-Term Substitute Elementary Learning Support Teacher at Mt. Rock Elementary School from September 2, 2009 through November 23, 2009, replacing Mrs. Tomasov who will be on child-rearing leave of absence. Mrs. Pipp's compensation for this position should be established at Step 1, Bachelor's Degree, \$37,812.00, plus a \$400.00 special education stipend, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

4. **Constance Werner**  
Mechanicsburg, PA 1705

Long-Term Substitute High School Counselor  
(replacing Lisa Bisignani who is on  
child rearing leave of absence)

**Education:**

Millersville University– Mathematics (Bachelor's Degree)  
Shippensburg University – Counseling (Master's Degree)

**Experience:**

Good Hope Middle School – Counseled students  
Mechanicsburg Middle School – Counseled students  
Cedar Cliff High School - Counseling

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Werner to serve as High School Counselor beginning approximately September 9, 2009. Ms. Werner's compensation for this position should be established at Master's, Step 1 \$43,137.00, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

5. **Ms. Gina Froment**, middle school math teacher, requested three days of leave without pay for October 28, 29, and 30, 2009.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Froment's request for three days of leave without pay for October 28, 29, and 30, 2009.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

6. **Ms. Candice Burns**, learning support teacher at Mount Rock Elementary School, requested five days of leave without pay for November 9-13, 2009.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Burns' request for five days of leave without pay for November 9-13, 2009.

7. **Substitute Custodial Worker**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The individual whose name is listed below is recommended to serve as custodial substitute during the 2009-2010 school year.

**Mr. James Epley**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Epley as a custodial substitute, effective immediately.

8. **2009-2010 Lifeguard**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**Kendra Bitner**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the individual listed to serve as a lifeguard during the 2009-2010 school year and summer months, pending receipt of all required paperwork.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

9. **Mr. Matthew Engleman**, high school physical education teacher, submitted his letter of resignation as fitness center/strength coordinator.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Engleman's resignation as fitness center/strength coordinator, effective immediately.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

10. **Ms. Lisa Mertz**, submitted her letter of resignation as long-term substitute high school guidance counselor replacing Mrs. Lisa Bisignani, who is on child-rearing leave of absence.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Mertz's resignation as long-term substitute high school guidance counselor, effective immediately.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

- 11. Mr. Shawn Britcher**, middle school social studies teacher, submitted his letter of resignation as Assistant Social Studies Chairperson.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Britcher's resignation as Assistant Social Studies Chairperson, effective immediately.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

- 12. Mr. James Keast**, part-time custodial worker, submitted his letter of resignation as part-time custodial worker, effective immediately. Mr. Keast requested to remain on the substitute custodian list.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Keast's resignation as a part-time custodial worker and accept Mr. Keast's request to remain on the substitute custodian list as presented.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

- 13. Ms. Mary Kantz**, part-time cafeteria worker, submitted her letter of resignation as a part-time cafeteria worker, effective immediately. Ms. Kantz requested to remain on the substitute cafeteria list.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Kantz's resignation as a part-time cafeteria worker and accept Ms. Kantz's request to remain on the substitute cafeteria list as presented.

- 14. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Jennifer Roberts**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mrs. Jennifer Roberts, reading teacher at Plainfield Elementary School, requested leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act from approximately January 4, 2010 through May 3, 2010. 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. Roberts' letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Jennifer Roberts' request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence from approximately January 4, 2010 through May 3, 2010 according to the terms of 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)**

**15. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Justine Sieg (ACTION ITEM)**

Mrs. Justine Sieg, high school business education teacher, requested leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act from approximately November 25, 2009, through approximately February 17, 2010. 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. Sieg's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Justine Sieg's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence from approximately November 25, 2009, through approximately February 17, 2010, according to the terms of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

**16. Coaching Appointments (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch recommended the individuals listed to serve as coaches during the 2009-2010 school year.

<b>Tyler Henry</b>	<b>Boy's Junior Varsity Basketball Coach</b>
<b>Jason Creek</b>	<b>Ninth Grade Boy's Basketball Coach</b>
<b>Mike Grier</b>	<b>Volunteer High School Basketball Coach</b>
<b>Stacci Starner</b>	<b>Volunteer Junior High Cross Country Coach</b>
<b>Carrie Stern</b>	<b>Volunteer Volleyball Coach</b>
<b>Tim Jumper</b>	<b>Girl's Junior High Soccer Coach</b>
<b>Don Belanger</b>	<b>Girl's Junior High Soccer Coach</b>

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint the above listed individuals to coach during the 2009-2010 school year and establish their salaries based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District, pending all required paperwork.

**17. Mrs. Willa Saylor, high school mathematics teacher, submitted her letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and the Board of School Directors accepted Mrs. Saylor's resignation at the April 6, 2009 meeting of the Board of School Directors. Mrs. Saylor's severance allowance has been calculated and submitted to the Board for approval at this time. (ACTION ITEM)**

As per the following calculations, Mrs. Saylor is entitled to a severance allowance in the amount of \$3,384.00, under option #2.

Option #1:  
0 years of service X \$190.00 = \$0.00  
(Maximum of \$12,500.00)

Option #2:  
47 unused sick leave days X \$72.00 = \$3,384.00  
(\$12,500.00 maximum)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Saylor's severance allowance of \$3,384.00 as presented.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

- 18. Ms. Shirley Truesdell**, was recommended to serve as sixth grade team leader at the middle school for the 2009-2010 school year.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Truesdell as sixth grade team leader, effective immediately.

**19. 2009-2010 Additional Bus Driver for Deitch Busing**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**Mr. John Stern**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors acknowledge the addition of Mr. Stern as a bus driver for the 2009-2010 school year, pending all required paperwork.

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

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Lopp to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-19, as outlined and recommended above, with a modification to Item 1. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Deaver, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**B. Credit Pay**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

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

<b>Candice Burns</b>	<b>\$ 2,499.00</b>
<b>Therese Butkewich</b>	<b>\$ 2,142.00</b>
<b>Mallory Cohick</b>	<b>\$ 1,080.00</b>
<b>Barbara Dellinger</b>	<b>\$ 1,071.00</b>
<b>Stephanie Devonald</b>	<b>\$ 2,142.00</b>
<b>Matthew Engleman</b>	<b>\$ 1,880.00</b>
<b>Megan Frantz</b>	<b>\$ 1,071.00</b>
<b>Stacey Gibb</b>	<b>\$ 1,689.00</b>
<b>Lori Harris</b>	<b>\$ 2,100.00</b>
<b>Angela Heishman</b>	<b>\$ 2,175.00</b>
<b>Lauren Hetrick</b>	<b>\$ 1,125.00</b>
<b>Samantha Hinchey</b>	<b>\$ 2,142.00</b>
<b>Abigail Leonard</b>	<b>\$ 4,284.00</b>
<b>Ashley Lloyd</b>	<b>\$ 1,071.00</b>
<b>Rachel Myers</b>	<b>\$ 45.00</b>
<b>Sherisa Nailor</b>	<b>\$ 1,080.00</b>
<b>Bethany Pagze</b>	<b>\$ 1,080.00</b>
<b>Gregory Perry</b>	<b>\$ 1,602.00</b>
<b>Jolene Regetta</b>	<b>\$ 1,320.00</b>
<b>Gregory Schreiber</b>	<b>\$ 1,125.00</b>
<b>Brandie Shatto</b>	<b>\$ 2,142.00</b>
<b>Matthew Tiffany</b>	<b><u>\$ 711.00</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,576.00</b>

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**B. Credit Pay**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

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

**C. Facilities Utilization Request**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Chuck Whitten requested permission to use the high school soccer practice field from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on September 13, 20, and 27, 2009, October 4, 18, and 25, November 1, 2009 for U-15 and U-19 girls' soccer games. He also requested to utilize the soccer practice field on September 27, 2009, and October 4, 2009, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. for U-15 and U-19 girls' soccer games. Because the utilization dates are on a Sunday, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Whitten's request to use the high school soccer practice field as presented.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Lopp to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Deaver, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Swanson, and Wolf. Voting No: Barrick. Total Yes votes: Seven (7). Total No votes: One (1). Motion carried by a majority vote.

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

**D. Tuition Exemption Students**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The current Collective Bargaining Agreement provides non-resident teachers the opportunity to choose to send their children to the Big Spring School District free of tuition. Based on Article 9.08 Non-Resident Student Tuition, The administration recommended granting tuition exemption to the following students for the 2009-2010 school year.

<b>Robbin McClure</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
<b>Zachary Stroh</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
<b>Brian Martin</b>	<b>Kindergarten</b>
<b>Jonathan Kuhn</b>	<b>Grade 1</b>

**E. Tuition Exemption for Non-Resident Student**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers requested permission for their daughter, Coral Rogers, a Big Spring High School senior, 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.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**E. Tuition Exemption for Non-Resident Student (Continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Coral Rogers

Grade 12

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. and Mrs. Rogers request for a tuition exemption for their daughter, Coral Rogers, for the 2009-2010 school year, as per the conditions outlined in Board Policy 202.3.

**VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, ITEMS D AND E**

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

**(NOTE: The Board addressed XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items F and G, following Item G.)**

**F. Newville Elementary School PTO Annual Audit**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The Big Spring School District has received a copy of a letter from Mrs. Karen Heishman advising that the Newville PTO's records are in good order and accurately reflect the financial transactions for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept the 2008-2009 Newville Elementary School PTO's annual audit report as presented.

**G. Mount Rock Elementary School PTO Annual Audit**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The Big Spring School District received a copy of a letter from Ms. Risbon advising that the Mount Rock Elementary School's PTO records are in good order and accurately reflect the financial transactions for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept the 2008-2009 Mt. Rock Elementary School PTO's annual audit report as presented.

**VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, ITEMS F AND G**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Lopp to combine and approve XIII, NEW BUSINESS, Items F and G, as recommended and outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Deaver, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**H. Plainfield PTO Fundraisers**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The Plainfield Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization requested permission to conduct the fundraisers listed below during the 2009-2010 school term.

**Wolfgang Candy Fundraiser (Fall)  
Jo Corbi's Family Favorites/Sandwich (Spring)**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Plainfield Elementary Parent Teacher Organization's request to conduct the fundraisers listed above during the 2009-2010 school term.

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

**I. Water Reimbursement Agreement**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Motion to approve the Water Reimbursement Agreement with the Newville Borough Water and Sewer Authority for the Oak Flat water line. Board officers, the Administration, and the Solicitor are authorized to take all steps necessary to execute and administer the Agreement.

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

**J. Contractor Payments (#5) for DAO Boiler Replacement - Capital Reserve Fund**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

McKissick Associates reviewed payment applications from Herre Bros., Inc., for work performed on the project. These payments will come from the Capital Reserve Fund. Copies of the payment applications in the amount of \$136,503.99 for HVAC contract and \$22,347.00 for plumbing contract are included in the Board packet. After these payments, the balance remaining to be paid is \$77,521.90 for HVAC contract and \$13,002.00 for plumbing.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve payment from the Capital Reserve Fund to Herre Bros., Inc., in the amount of \$136,503.99 for the HVAC contract and \$22,347.00 for the plumbing contract.

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

**K. Planned Course Adoption**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Listed below is a completed planned course for board approval.

Music – Guitar I

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the planned courses as presented.

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

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

L. Federal Programs Consolidated Amendment Application (INFORMATION ITEM)

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent, submitted the 2009-2010 Consolidated Federal Programs Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and it has been approved for Title II AARA (stimulus) funding in the amount of \$210,164.00

Information was included with the agenda.

Mrs. Temple indicated that this is a grant that extends just two years and is used to fund existing staff. No new staff members would be hired using these monies.

M. 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 their satisfactory performance.

**Mr. Matthew Engleman - High School Physical Education Teacher**

Additional information regarding the professional employees have been prepared by Mr. Steven Smith, High School Principal, and was included with the agenda.

N. Resolutions to Request a Renewable Energy Program Grant and Alternative and Clean Energy Program Grant (ACTION ITEM)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors motion to approve the resolutions to request a Renewable Energy Program Grant and an Alternative and Clean Energy Program Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for installing a Geothermal Energy System in the proposed Plainfield Elementary School construction project.

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

In response to a question from Director Norris, Mr. Fry indicated that it is unknown when this grant would be paid in light of the State budget impasse.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that one of the two grants relates to stimulus monies.

Mr. Fry indicated that the word "proposed" is included in the recommendation because the Board has not yet decided to proceed with the Plainfield Elementary School project. Mr. Fry indicated that information regarding the grant would be helpful when the time comes for the Board to decide whether to proceed with the project. The Board would know if the grant is successful by January 2010. The Board would then decide in February 2010 whether or not to proceed with the construction of a new Plainfield Elementary School.

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

**XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future Board agenda items.

**XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

**B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson**

The Athletic Committee met two weeks ago and is in the process of revising the athletic policy.

**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.

**E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco**

The members of the Board of School Directors were provided with copies of the attached 26-page (many pages double-sided) Finance Committee meeting minutes dated August 28, 2009 (revised as of September 3, 2009). Please refer to the attached document.

**F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco**

Director Blasco reported that the recent changes to the South Central Trust have been positive. Healthcare items are no longer handled through the District's business office. The assigned representative is working well with employees.

President Wolf indicated that he was "impressed" with the handouts provided at a recent meeting.

**G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf**

President Wolf reported that the CAIU finances have reached their limit and that a potential \$4 million borrowing may be addressed at the October 2009 meeting if a State budget is not approved by then. In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Wolf indicated that he does not believe the CAIU's financial situation would affect school districts.

Mr. Fry indicated that the CAIU has requested that school districts make the required payments to the CAIU earlier than usual; however, Mr. Fry indicated that he believes many school districts are not in a position to do that.

Mr. Wolf indicated that the CAIU is "at the mercy of the State budget far more than school districts." The organization has considered reducing their dependence on businesses outside the State system so they "do not get into these kinds of financial troubles."

In response to a question from Mr. Blasco, Mr. Wolf indicated that he does not believe the State would pay interest penalties on the delayed payments to school districts.

**XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Transportation Changes**

Superintendent Fry reported that the administration has implemented new transportation software that has been used to evaluate the efficiency of school bus routes. Transportation changes have included the consolidation of some bus routes and the assignment of fewer bus stops. The administration seeks to contain costs while maintaining a safe climate for students.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that, while several of the new Turnpike bridges have been opened, more bridge closings are expected next year as part of Phase 3 of the Turnpike's widening plan.

Mr. Fry provided the members of the Board of School Directors with copies of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Publication 46, Chapter 7, School Areas guide to refer to when answering transportation concerns from District residents. Please refer to the attached document.

**B. President Obama's Address to Students**

Mr. Fry reported that 96 percent of Big Spring secondary students watched President Obama's address to the nation's students today.

**C. State Audit Update**

Superintendent Fry reported that the State audit revealed three "findings" based on the District's records from the 2007-2008 school term. They are as follows:

1. **A teacher certification issue:** A teacher from Newport News, Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind and Multi Disabled was hired by the District to teach an individual student. The teacher had emergency certification and was required to complete nine credits to maintain certification. The program the teacher was attending for certification permitted her to take only six credits; therefore, she was unable to complete the State-mandated number of credits that year. The student taught by this teacher earned full credit for the course. The State denied payment to Big Spring School District because of the three-credit certification issue. The teacher has since left the District's employ.

Director Blasco urged the administration to request that Mr. Spare write a letter to the State requesting reimbursement based on the fact that the student earned the credits; therefore, Big Spring should be reimbursed for funding and providing that instruction.

2. The State found that an **ethics statement** was not on file for a former Board member who moved out of State. The ethics statement has now been obtained from the former Board member and filed appropriately.
3. The State found that Big Spring does not **change computer user identifications and passwords** frequently enough. Measures have been taken to remedy this situation.

**D. Opening Day**

Mr. Fry reported that the first day of his fifth year at Big Spring went smoothly. The four-day pre-service schedule of activities went well.

**E. Building Advisory Team**

A Building Advisory Team (BAT) meeting is slated for Wednesday, September 9, 2009.



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

**F. Sunday Facility Utilization**

Mr. Fry indicated that the administration has denied a group the use of a District facility on a Sunday morning during the winter. Mr. Hockenbroch is working with a group to find a suitable agreement for both sides.

Mr. Fry indicated that he hesitates to request staff to clear sidewalks and parking lots for a Sunday morning activity.

**XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**A. Tax Collector Meetings**

Director Piper thanked Mr. Kerr for meeting with local tax collectors to learn more about their duties and responsibilities.

**B. Cumberland County Tax Collection Committee**

President Wolf indicated that he has been invited to serve as the Cumberland County Tax Collection Committee (CCTCC) primary delegate for Cooke Township, North Newton Township, Penn Township, South Newton Township, and possibly Newville Borough. Mr. Kerr would serve as the secondary delegate. The CCTCC would make determinations about the earned income tax collections in the future.

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

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, September 21, 2009**