

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

The Big Spring School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, and disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or for information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Superintendent of Schools, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, 45 Mt. Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241, at (717) 776-2412.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring High School Large Group Room, Room 140, at 8:00 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Five (5) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Richard Norris; and William Piper.

Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; Sandra Rosenberry Deaver; and Richard Roush were 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; Linda Franz, The Patriot-News; Douglas Kennedy, 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 SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES; THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES; AND THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris for approval of the September 8, 2009 Buildings and Property Committee meeting minutes; the September 8, 2009 Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes; and the September 8, 2009 regular Board meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Douglas Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy offered the following report:

- A.** Football (2-0), boys' soccer (4-2), girls' volleyball (1-4), and field hockey (1-3) teams are doing well. A pep rally for fall sports was held on Friday, September 18, 2009.
- B.** The Student Council is organizing the October 3, 2009 homecoming dance.
- C.** Club Care is preparing for a teachers' luncheon on October 28, 2009.
- D.** High school clubs met for the first time on Wednesday, September 16, 2009.
- E.** Students are settling into the 2009-2010 school year. .

President Wolf thanked the Mr. Kennedy for the report.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report showed a General Fund ending cash and investment balance of \$5,242,719.34 as of August 31, 2009; a Cafeteria Fund balance of \$100,966.00 as of August 31, 2009; Capital Reserve Fund investment balance of \$132,077.20 as of August 31, 2009; and a Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund cash balance of \$147,124.94 as of August 31, 2009.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Norris for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund Account Payment of Bills and Central Treasury Athletic and Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account Payment of Bills

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Norris for approval of General Fund Account checks #55334-55528 totaling \$628,964.48 and Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13229-13264 and voided checks #13251 and 13260 totaling \$15,351.91 and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #10343-10390 and voided checks #10361 totaling \$14,790.87. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, and Student Activity/Miscellaneous: \$659,107.26. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Caitlin Clarke, Abby Finkenbinder, Benjamin Kutz, Stacy Kutz, April Messenger, Cody Miller, Sherisa Nailor, Lori Todaro, and SaraBeth Wanbaugh.

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X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- A. **Mrs. Stacy Kutz**, 32 Cornman Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors regarding the bus stops on Cornman Drive. Mrs. Kutz indicated that as a result of the District modifying bus stops, her middle school-aged daughter is now required to walk approximately a half mile on a road that has no white line or berm for her to escape the dangers of speeding vehicles, including commercial welding, fabrication, and construction vehicles, along with milk tankers and farm equipment. In addition, Mrs. Kutz indicated that it would be impossible for her daughter to get out of harm's way in the winter when the snow is piled at the sides of the road. Mrs. Kutz indicated that, in her opinion, the District is putting her child at risk to save taxpayers an indeterminate amount of money on gas expense.

Mrs. Kutz indicated that, on the advice of the District, she and other Cornman Drive families with similar concerns have completed an application from PennDOT requesting an evaluation of the road.

Mrs. Kutz indicated that she wanted to make the Board aware that situations like this are occurring throughout the District.

Mrs. Kutz indicated that she is aware of other families who have reported that their children's bus stops are closer together than the Cornman Drive bus stops, yet the buses stop at each driveway for those students.

Mr. Fry indicated that the District has used computer software for bus-stop consolidation; however, he added that it is important for PennDOT to determine if the new stops are hazardous because software cannot determine whether the bus stop or the child's pathway to the stop is hazardous. PennDOT offers this service free of charge.

Mr. Fry indicated that the District's buses travel on roads throughout 198 square miles, and he indicated that it would be a challenge over the next several years to balance the stops, both fiscally and keeping in mind student safety.

Mr. Fry indicated that the District is responsible for a student from the time the student leaves the front door of his/her home to the time he/she returns home.

In response to a comment from Mrs. Kutz, Mr. Fry confirmed that some bus stops have been relocated to an address where no student lives because that location could be the equal distance between two homes.

Mr. Fry responded that the District does not have to secure the homeowner's approval in order to establish a bus stop. Mr. Fry added that the District would be liable for anything that happens to a student, not the homeowner, at the location of a bus stop.

Mrs. Kutz indicated that there have been individuals of questionable reputation in her neighborhood, and she noted that this is an added concern to the students walking on this road. It was noted that the north side of Cornman Road features a drop-off where students would not be able to find a safe place to escape oncoming traffic.

President Wolf indicated that the Board would work with Mrs. Kutz through this process, and he noted that he would like to speak with Mrs. Kutz again after PennDOT completes its evaluation of Cornman Road.

President Wolf thanked Mrs. Kutz for bringing this issue to the Board's attention.

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X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)

- B. Mrs. Lori Todaro**, 605 Roxbury Road, Newville, PA 17241, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and thanked Mr. Fry and the administration for the professional way they handled the recent issue regarding a staph infection.

Mrs. Todaro indicated that she has had many positive interactions with the Big Spring School District staff, including a situation that could have been detrimental to her son where Mrs. Todaro was contacted at work and the situation was resolved immediately. Mrs. Todaro indicated that, in her opinion, she does not believe she would find this kind of compassion in other school districts.

Mrs. Todaro indicated that her children are excelling in every area because they have been “challenged, loved, and cared for by teachers and held to a high level expectation.” Mrs. Todaro indicated that she did not know what to expect when she moved to this school district; however, she noted that this is the family’s third school year, and every year the children are excited to begin another year.

Mrs. Todaro indicated that at Big Spring School District, every member of the administration and every teacher has “surpassed all we expected, and our kids are excelling because of it. Thank you all for that.”

President Wolf thanked Mrs. Todaro for her comments.

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-10,
following Item A-10.)**

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teachers

(ACTION ITEM)

Ashley Robinson	Art Education
Debra Spencer	Elementary Education
Susan Durham	Elementary/Special Education

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additions of Ashley Robinson, Debra Spencer and Susan Durham to the 2009-2010 per diem substitute teacher list as presented.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

2. Isaac Bucher

Dillsburg, PA 17019

Long Term Substitute High School
Agriculture Teacher replacing Mrs. Sherisa Nailor
who will be on child-rearing leave

Education:

Penn State University– Agriculture Science (Bachelor’s Degree)
Penn State University – Agriculture Education

Experience:

Annville Cleona School District – Technology Education Instructor
Pennsylvania Department Agriculture – Agriculture Ambassador

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Bucher to serve as a Long Term Substitute High School Agriculture Teacher replacing Mrs. Sherisa Nailor who will be on child-rearing leave of absence from approximately October 9, 2009, through November 25, 2009. Mr. Bucher’s compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor’s, Step 1, \$37,812.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

3. 2009-2010 Additional Bus and Van Driver for Deitch Busing

(ACTION ITEM)

**Ingrid Siwy
Danielle Eckenrode**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors acknowledge the addition of Ms. Siwy and Ms. Eckenrode as a van/bus driver for the 2009-2010 school year, pending all required paperwork.

4. Induction Year I and Induction Year II Coordinator

(ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Stephanie Cramer, sixth grade teacher, was recommended to serve as Induction Year I Coordinator and Mrs. Niki Donato, third grade teacher, has been recommended to serve as Induction Year II Coordinator for the 2009-2010 school year.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Cramer as Induction Year I Coordinator and Mrs. Donato as Induction Year II Coordinator during the 2009-2010 school year and establish their compensation for this position based on the established contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

5. Substitute Custodial Worker

(ACTION ITEM)

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

Linda Frantz

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

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

6. **Ms. Kathy Sarnicki** was recommended to serve as a part-time cafeteria worker at Newville Elementary School, replacing Mrs. Kantz, who has resigned.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Sarnicki to serve as a part-time cafeteria worker at Newville Elementary School, retroactive to September 3, 2009.

(ACTION ITEM)

7. **Mrs. Lisa Bisignani**, high school guidance counselor, submitted her letter of resignation as a high school guidance counselor.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Bisignani's resignation as high school guidance counselor, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

8. **Ms. Sherisa Nailor**, high school agriculture teacher, submitted her letter of resignation as assistant softball coach.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Nailor's resignation as assistant softball coach, effective immediately.

9. **Fall Fitness Center Strength Coach**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch recommended the individual listed to serve as the Fall Fitness Center Strength Coach for the 2009-2010 school year.

Mr. John Beeman

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint the above listed individual as the Fall Fitness Center Strength Coach during the 2009-2010 school year and establish Mr. Beeman's salary based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

10. **Approval of 2009-2010 Mentor Teachers**

(ACTION ITEM)

Based upon the provisions of the teacher induction program, Act 48, each teacher new to a school district is assigned a mentor teacher. As per the provisions of the contract between the Big Spring School District and the Big Spring Education Association, individual mentor teachers receive a stipend.

A copy of the proposed 2009-2010 mentor teacher list was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the 2009-2010 mentor teachers as presented.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

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

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-10, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Norris, Piper, 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.

John Beeman	\$ 2,142.00
Suzanne Brazeau	\$ 3,240.00
Candice Burns	\$ 1,071.00
Lois Cox	<u>\$ 2,142.00</u>
Total	\$ 8,595.00

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

(ACTION ITEM)

C. Approval of the Proposed 2009-2010 Program of Activities for the Big Spring FFA

The officers of the Big Spring FFA requested Board approval of the proposed 2009-2010 FFA Program of Activities. Board approval of the Program of Activities is a requirement in preparation for the State and National Chapter Awards.

Included in the Program of Activities is a listing of current officers and information regarding the organization's standing committees.

A copy of the proposed 2009-2010 FFA Program of Activities was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the 2009-2010 Program of Activities for the Big Spring FFA as presented.

FFA officers Abby Finkenbinder, President; Caitlin Clarke, Vice President; and Cody Miller, Sentinel, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and highlighted the accomplishments of FFA students over the summer and offered a report of the activities the FFA members would engage in during the 2009-2010 school year. A highlight of the year will be a trip to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the five-day National FFA Convention in the fall. Students will offer a report to the Board regarding this event.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

C. Approval of the Proposed 2009-2010 Program of Activities for the Big Spring FFA
(Continued)

The students also reviewed the recent FFA competitions and awards the students have earned and the fundraisers the students will offer during the year.

The students indicated they are proud to represent Big Spring School District, and they thanked the members of the Board of School Directors and the administration for supporting the efforts of the FFA.

President Wolf commended the students for their "impressive" report, and he thanked the FFA teachers for their efforts associated with the FFA program and training the students so well.

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

D. Post-Graduation Party Fundraisers

(ACTION ITEM)

The 2010 Post-Graduation Party Committee requested permission from the Board of School Directors to conduct the fundraisers listed during the 2009-2010 school year.

- Bruster's Coupon Booklet
- Sheetz Coupon Booklet
- Pretzel Sandwich Sale
- Stadium Blankets
- Restaurant Discount Night (Applebee's or Red Robin)
- Rada Cutlery (distribution will not take place on school property)
- Buyout – Offer made for parents to opt out of fundraising (includes stadium blanket)
- Terri Lynn Fundraiser (nuts and candies) – Holiday 2009
- Pie Sale – March 2010
- Basket Bingo – Spring 2010
- Chicken BBQ

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the Post-Graduation Party Committee to conduct the fundraisers listed during the 2009-2010 school year.

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

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

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

E. Plainfield Elementary School PTO Annual Audit (ACTION ITEM)

The Big Spring School District received a copy of a letter from Ms. Linda Heller advising that the Plainfield 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 Ms. Heller was included with the agenda.

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

F. Big Spring Middle School PTO Annual Audit (ACTION ITEM)

The Big Spring School District received a copy of a letter from Ms. Heller advising that the Middle School 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 Ms. Heller was included with the agenda.

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

VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, ITEMS E and F

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

G. Resolution to Request a Solar Energy Program Grant (ACTION ITEM)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors motion to approve the resolution to request a Solar Energy Program Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for installing a Photovoltaic Roof Panel System at the new Plainfield Elementary School.

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

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that this proposed grant for just under \$2 million was written based on the potential of constructing a new Plainfield Elementary School. This action would not commit the Board to any construction.

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

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

H. Approval of PLANCON and ACT 34 Submission to PDE Regarding Newville Project

Even though this is not a PDE reimbursable project, the Board must still submit a partial PLANCON document (Part D pages D02,3,4,19,20,21, and 23) and obtain PDE approval prior to renovating school property. Due to the size of the project at Newville, it also requires compliance with Act 34. Previously the Board approved and held the Act 34 hearing for the Newville Project. The District received one comment from a resident (included). These materials (Act 34 booklet, advertisement and proof of publication, hearing minutes or transcript, and written public comments) are required for submission for non-reimbursable projects that are subject to Act 34 of 1973.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors authorize submission of PlanCon Part D pages D02,3,4,29,20,21, and 23, along with the Act 34 booklet, advertisement and proof of publication, hearing minutes, and written public comments to PDE for approval.

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

(ACTION ITEM)

I. Selection of Hydrogeology Services to Develop a New Well at Plainfield

Previously the Board asked McKissick Assoc. to request proposals for hydrogeology services for the purpose of locating, drilling and testing a new well at the Plainfield site. The summary of the proposals was included in the Board packet. The McKissick recommendation is to accept the AES proposal. For the actual drilling, AES would request proposals from at least three local well drillers (list of local drillers to be provided by the Administration); their estimate is \$2,500 plus markup. AES would select the best price from that and they anticipate that this would occur within several days. *The actual trenching, piping, and pumping for the new building would be additional cost associated with the water well that would occur as part of the building construction project.*

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors accept the AES proposal based on a fee of \$13,628 (plus expenses) and authorizes them to proceed with analysis, location, drilling, and testing of a new well at Plainfield. The Board further authorizes AES to request proposals from at least three local vendors for the purpose of well-drilling services at Plainfield and to select the vendor providing services that best meet the needs of the District.

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

Superintendent Fry indicated that, regardless of the future direction the Board chooses for Plainfield Elementary School, this work would have been required. Mr. Fry indicated that doing this work now "makes good sense to the administration," and he added that, given the history of Plainfield Elementary School, this analysis is critical before moving forward with any project.

In response to question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that he believes this includes the testing of wells in the Plainfield Elementary School neighborhood.

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

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

J. Planned Course Adoption

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Listed below is a completed planned course for board approval. The completed planned course is available in the Curriculum Center for review by the Board of School Directors prior to the October 5, 2009, Board of School Directors meeting.

High School
Honors Calculus

K. Updated Athletic Policy

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director, submitted an updated athletic policy.

The updated Athletic Policy was included with the agenda.

L. 2009-2010 Earned Income Tax Report

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Business Office personnel prepared a 2009-2010 Earned Income Tax Report and a copy of the report was included with the agenda.

Mr. Kerr reported that the earned income tax increased a little in the last period, and he added that the overall expenses compared with last year decreased for the same period. Mr. Kerr indicated that the District is "holding steady on income and expenses" to date.

M. 2009-2010 General Fund Year to Date Report

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Business Office personnel has prepared a 2009-2010 General Fund Year to Date Report and a copy of the report was included with the agenda.

XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future Board agenda items.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp

The District Improvement Committee will meet on November 12, 2009. The Committee is working on a survey for stakeholders in the community – parents, students, and teachers – with regard to the direction the District should take in the next three years. Mrs. Temple indicated that she would offer the proposed survey for the Board's review before it is distributed.

B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson

Vice President Swanson commended the administration and staff for the outstanding proactive and professional way in which the recent staph-infection incident was handled. Mr. Swanson indicated that because of District efforts, rumors regarding this issue were "kept to a minimum."

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XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

C. Vocational-Technical School – Mr. Wolf/Mr. Piper

The JOC will meet next week. The school is off to a good start so far.

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

Director Barrick indicated that members of the Buildings and Property Committee, Board, and administration met this evening at the middle school to investigate potential problems with the structure. The administration has been charged with preparing a recommendation to fix the problems.

Mr. Barrick encouraged Board members to review the most recent BAT meeting minutes. Mr. Barrick reviewed some of the items addressed at the meeting. The following items were noted:

1. Newville Elementary School

- a. North Newtown Township is requiring the District to erect a fence between the proposed driveways for Newville Elementary School. A split-rail fence is being considered.
- b. Mr. Wolf will work with the architects in deciding the species of trees that must be planted according to Township guidelines.
- c. The Safe Routes to School efforts are being coordinated with the proposed construction project.
- d. There has been a change in the renovations to reconfigure the office space to include the copier and a visitors' buzz-in system similar to the secure entrances at other District schools.
- e. An adjustment was made to improve the bus loading/unloading zone.

2. Plainfield Elementary School

- a. Mr. McKissick prepared an alternate downsized plan for Plainfield Elementary School to eliminate approximately 340,000 square feet and modify the proposed school from a "three-deep" to a "two-deep," decreasing the cost by roughly \$4 million. The proposal eliminates six classrooms and half of the gymnasium. A two-deep school would not support a full-sized gymnasium based on student occupancy requirements for State reimbursement. A referendum would be required to construct a full-sized gymnasium for a two-deep school.
- b. The proposed school would be designed so that an additional classroom at each grade level could be constructed and the gymnasium could be enlarged if there were an enrollment increase in that area of the District.
- c. The BAT is recommending that the Board proceed with bidding the three-deep school, with the two-deep school bid as an alternate.
- d. Other items recommended to decrease the cost of the school are as follows: reducing the square footage of the entranceway, flattening the roof over the cafeteria, shortening the hallway behind the music room, and attempting to achieve a silver LEED rating instead of a gold LEED rating.
- e. Based on new information from West Pennsboro Township, a two-deep building would accommodate projected enrollments for that area for the next ten years. The potential growth still exists in that township; however, the housing development plans are currently on hold.
- f. The site development in the proposed alternate plan is not expected to change with the exception of eliminating some parking spaces, with the potential to add them in the future.
- g. The footprint for the alternate plan would not change. A variance is required for one corner of the building at Greason Road.

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XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

Mr. McKissick will be present at the October 5, 2009 Board meeting to present the new designs to the Board.

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

The Finance Committee will meet soon to review how the financing could change for a two-deep versus a three-deep facility for Plainfield Elementary School.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

The CAIU Board will meet on Thursday, September 24, 2009, to address a potential \$12 million borrowing to cover the operating costs until the State budget is approved.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. District Phone System

Superintendent Fry indicated that a server malfunctioned for the District's telephone system last weekend. The District had no landline telephone service until 10:15 a.m. District-wide on Monday, September 14, 2009. This information was communicated to the public on the District's website, including an emergency contact cellular telephone number. A back-up server has now been installed.

Mr. Fry indicated that the District's telephone system is antiquated, and members of the administration are investigating new systems. Mr. Fry indicated that the District's current telephone system is a "small-business solution where a large-business solution is needed."

Mr. Kerr indicated that a small to medium upgraded telephone system would cost approximately \$75,000.

In response to a question from Director Norris, Mr. Roberts indicated that the District's T-1 line is big enough to handle a voiceover IP system. The existing voiceover system is limited to the District administration office.

In response to a question from Director Piper, Mr. Kerr indicated that the District now pays Embarq for the use of their copper lines. With a new system, the District could "get away from paying Embarq for the old copper lines" and could use a separate network wire.

Mr. Fry indicated that the District's Global Connect system is a contracted service that works over the Internet lines and operates independent from the District's telephone system.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that had there been an emergency when the landlines were down, the District's cell phones and the Global Connect service could have been used to communicate with the public.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

B. PIAA Girls' Soccer

Mr. Fry reported that he is the superintendent representative for the PIAA Mid Penn region, and he reported that girls' soccer has been moved from the spring to the fall beginning in the 2010-2011 school term. This means girls' soccer will compete with cross country, volleyball, and field hockey for players.

Some districts are expected to ask the PIAA for an extension, and it is predicted there is only a 10 percent chance the extension would be granted.

Spring girls' sports would include track and softball.

This change was driven by western Pennsylvania and surrounding states that offer girls' soccer in the fall.

There is also discussion with regard to moving junior high soccer to the spring. If this change were to occur, Big Spring would be "field-challenged" and forced to investigate synthetic turf.

C. Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA)

Mr. Fry indicated that he has been appointed to the PASA cabinet that includes seven superintendents statewide. This position will require Mr. Fry to spend some time in Harrisburg. Mr. Fry will testify about the Keystone Examinations in front of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission in October 2009. Mr. Fry indicated that he would make the District's position known with regard to the appeal process for a variety of issues.

D. 2010-2011 Budget

Mr. Fry indicated that the District expects to have a 2.9 percent base index for the 2010-2011 budget. The adjusted index is not yet available.

Mr. Fry noted that when the District has a collective bargaining agreement that requires a 4.35 to 5 percent increase, increased pension contributions, and State index at 2.9 percent, it places the District in a difficult situation. Mr. Fry indicated that a 2.9 percent index is expected for at least the next two years and perhaps longer.

E. School Closings: Scotland School and Scranton State School for the Deaf

Mr. Fry indicated that the closing of Scotland School and the Scranton State School for the Deaf could have an effect on Big Spring School District. At the present time a school district within a three-mile radius of either closed school would be required to hire teachers from the closed school when a teaching vacancy occurs. There has been a proposal to increase the three-mile radius to a 25-mile radius. This change would place Big Spring School District in the 25-mile radius of Scotland School, requiring Big Spring to hire any applicant from Scotland School if a teaching vacancy occurs. This mandate could be in effect for three to five years.

Ninety professional Scotland School staff members are on unemployment as a result of the school closing.

Mr. Fry indicated that he will be contacting local legislators regarding this issue because the mandate would take the hiring out of the hands of local school districts.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

F. Big Spring Cross Country Invitational

Mr. Fry reported that nearly 1,000 runners participated in the Big Spring Cross Country invitational event on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Mr. Fry indicated that Big Spring School District has one of the top five courses "east of the Mississippi," and he added that the course is second to none in the state of Pennsylvania. Mr. Fry noted that the course serves the students well.

G. FFA Long-Term Substitute

Mr. Fry indicated that he was pleased that the administration was able to locate a long-term substitute FFA teacher with an agricultural background to replace Mrs. Nailor while she is on a child-rearing leave of absence. Mr. Fry noted that FFA teachers are "next to impossible to find."

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

FFA Presentation

Director Barrick indicated that he was impressed with the FFA students who offered a presentation to the Board this evening. Mr. Barrick noted that the students came well prepared to speak. Mr. Barrick indicated that he would challenge any academic student to come before the Board and deliver a speech like the three students this evening. Mr. Barrick commended the FFA teachers for preparing the students well.

Mr. Barrick indicated that he looks forward to the FFA pie sale in November and December.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, October 5, 2009