

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

*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 8:25 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr, presiding. Seven (7) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr, President; William Swanson, Vice-President; Robert Barrick, William Piper, David Gutshall, John McCrea, and Kingsley Blasco.

Absent – Richard Norris and Richard Roush.

\*Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts Jr, Assistant Superintendent; Richard Kerr Jr, Business Manager; Brandie Shatto, Director of Educational Technology and Public Relations; and Carol Frace, Board Minutes. Curtis Garland, The Valley Times-Star;

### **II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

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

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES AND THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 BUILDING AND PROPERTY MEETING MINUTES.**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson for approval of the September 8, 2015 Building and Property Meeting Minutes; the September 8, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes; and the September 8, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Piper, Barrick, McCrea, Blasco, and Gutshall. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

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

Katelyn Jackson and Morgan Frampton presented a student report.  
[Student report is attached.](#)

**V. TREASURER REPORT**

General Fund	\$	12,000,607.11
Capital Projects	\$	4,716,309.69
Cafeteria Fund	\$	387,052.54
Student Activities	\$	<u>208,507.18</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>17,312,476.52</b>

The Treasurer's Report showed balances as outlined above as of August 31, 2015. Motion by Gutshall, seconded by Blasco for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, Blasco, Piper, and McCrea. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

**VI. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

General Fund	\$	829,900.03
Capital Projects	\$	975.59
Cafeteria Fund	\$	14,536.82
Student Activities	\$	<u>19,986.77</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>865,399.21</b>

Motion by Gutshall, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund, Capital Projects, Cafeteria Fund, and Student Activities Fund payments of bills for 2015-2016 as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Piper, Gutshall, McCrea, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

**VII. YTD GENERAL FUND REPORT AND YTD TAXES**

The administration prepared these reports for the Board. The General Fund report looks at our revenue and expense for this year against the budget and compares those amounts to last year.

The YTD Tax Report shows the monthly collections and cumulative collections and compares that to the two previous years.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gutshall for approval of recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Piper, Gutshall, McCrea, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

**VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools has received correspondence from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Matthew Stern Deputy Secretary, regarding Pennsylvania Department of Education's determination of Big Spring School District's compliance status with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The correspondence is attached.

**IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Matt Frampton, Sheri Burke, April Messenger, Curtis Garland, Peggy Way, Morganne Frampton, Katelyn Jackson, Linda Bowles, and Ben Franklin.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**XI. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**1) Resignation – High School Club Adviser, Robert Hanks**

Mr. Robert Hanks has submitted his resignation as adviser for the High School Clubs listed, effective immediately.

**Shakespeare Troupe  
Gears Literary Magazine  
Writer's Club**

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Hanks' resignation as adviser for the clubs listed above, effective immediately.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (. . .continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**2) Resignation – High School Quiz Bowl Club Adviser, Mr. Timothy Kireta**

Mr. Timothy Kireta has submitted his resignation as High School Quiz Bowl Club Adviser, effective immediately.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Kireta's resignation as High School Quiz Bowl Club Adviser, effective immediately.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**3) Coaching Appointment**

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director would like to recommend the individual listed as a volunteer coach for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Emily Young - Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach**

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of the above listed volunteer coach as presented.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**4) Child-Rearing Leave of Absence – Jessica Dagle**

Mrs. Jessica Dagle, Seventh Grade Learning Support Teacher at the Middle School is requesting child-rearing leave of absence from approximately December 10, 2015 through approximately February 1, 2016. According to Section 3.07 of the current 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.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Dagle's requested child-rearing leave via section 3.07 of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement from approximately December 10, 2015 through approximately February 1, 2016.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**5) Child-Rearing Leave of Absence – Lauren Swigart**

Mrs. Lauren Swigart, School is requesting child-rearing leave of absence from approximately January 15, 2016 through approximately April 4, 2016. According to Section 3.07 of the current 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.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (. . .continued)**

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Swigart's requested child-rearing leave via section 3.07 of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement from approximately January 15, 2016 through approximately April 4, 2016.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**6) Recommendations for Title I Coordinator and Reading Department**

Mr. Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent would like to recommend the individuals listed as Title I Coordinator and Elementary English/Language Arts Assistant Department Chairperson for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Title I Coordinator - Kelly Bales**

**Elementary English/Language Arts Assistant Department Chair - Jennifer Roberts**

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve the appointments of the above listed individuals for the 2015-2016 school year, effective immediately.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**7) Recommendations for High School Musical Stage Manager**

The administration would like to recommend Ms. Christina Hagood as High School Musical Stage Manager for the 2015-2016 school year, replacing Ms. Jodi Bistline who has resigned.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Ms. Hagood as High School Musical Stage Manager for the 2015-2016 school year.

**VOTE ON XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A-1 – A-7, PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson to combine and approve Items A-1 through A-7 as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (. . . .continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**B) Credit Pay**

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.

<b>Bill August</b>	<b>\$1,816.00</b>
<b>Stacey Kimble</b>	<b><u>\$1,816.00</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,632.00</b>

The administration recommends 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, the Act 93 Agreement and the Big Spring School District.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

Mr. Swanson questioned if we really need to vote on this item. It is part of the negotiated agreement.

Mr. Barrick replied it is an expenditure of money. Therefore, we need to vote.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**C) Proposed Updated Policy**

The administration has updated the policy listed.

**819 Suicide Awareness Prevention Policy**

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve the policy listed.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommended as amended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

Mr. Barrick inquired if this policy meets all the new state guidelines.

Mr. Fry informed the Board the reason it is being updated is for the new guidelines.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (. . . .continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**D) Facilities Utilization Request**

The Big Spring Renegade Force Wrestling Team Club is requesting permission to utilize the high school wrestling room for club practices throughout the months of September and November, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Because the utilization request involves Sunday's throughout the September and November months, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve the Big Spring Renegade Force Wrestling Team Club request to utilize the high school wrestling room for club practices as presented.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Gutshall to approve the recommended as amended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

Mr. Fry noted the times on the requests. They are evening times. This is something we have consistently done for out of season sports. They continue to use our facilities on Sunday evenings thus requiring Board approval.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**E) Approval of Big Spring Band Boosters Financial Report**

The Big Spring School District has received a copy of the correspondence from Cohick and Associates, advising that the Big Spring Band Boosters audit report was accepted with auditing standards for the 2014-2015 school year. A copy of the correspondence is included with the agenda.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors accept the 2014-2015 Big Spring Band Boosters audit report as presented.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**F) Approval of the Athletic Boosters Financial Report**

The Big Spring School District has received a copy of the correspondence from Ms. Nancy Mallein, advising that the Big Spring Athletic Boosters audit report was accepted with auditing standards for the 2014-2015 school year. A copy of the correspondence is included with the agenda.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors accept the 2014-2015 Big Spring Athletic Boosters audit report as presented.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (. . . .continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**G) Approval of Newville Elementary PTO Financial Report**

The Big Spring School District has received a copy of the correspondence from Mr. Hurley, advising that the Newville Elementary School PTO audit report was accepted with auditing standards for the 2014-2015 school year. A copy of the correspondence is included with the agenda.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors accept the 2014-2015 Newville Elementary School PTO audit report as presented.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Blasco to combine and approve items E, F, and G as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**H) Approval of New Story Tuition Agreement**

The Tuition Agreement between the Big Spring School District and New Story has been reviewed by the Big Spring School District Solicitor, Gareth Pahowka and Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools. The agreement is included with the agenda.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve the New Story Tuition Agreement as presented.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Barrick to approve the recommended as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Norris. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

Mr. McCrea inquired how old is the student that requires these services.

Mr. Fry replied the student is elementary. They do have services in the secondary level. This is a yearly contract based on student needs.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**I) Approval of Agreement for South Central PA Consortium for Excellence & Equity Services**

The Agreement for South Central PA Consortium for Excellence & Equity Services between Capital Area Intermediate Unit and Big Spring School District has been reviewed by Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools. The agreement is included with the agenda.



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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (. . .continued)**

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approve the Agreement for South Central PA Consortium for Excellence & Equity Services between Capital Area Intermediate Unit and Big Spring School District as presented.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommended as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

Mr. Fry informed the Board of School Directors that this roughly brings together 12 districts within the CAIU and also IU #13 which is the Lancaster Lebanon district. This allows us to interact with higher education from the University of Pennsylvania with relevant information and more specificity in leadership with regards to poverty. We will be able to look at how demographics have changed and how district can better support students with poverty.

**(DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM)**

**J) Approval of Proposed Stadium Project**

The Building and Property Committee has been working with engineer, Tobie Wolf in planning for reconstruction of the current stadium. Proposed design has been shared with all Board members.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors authorize the administration to proceed with the proposed construction plan at the current stadium at a cost not to exceed \$2.2 million.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Blasco to approve the recommended as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

**(DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM)**

**K) Approval of Proposed All Weather Track**

In conjunction with the stadium project, our engineer has provided various options to install an “All Weather Track” on campus. There were three sites reviewed initially that eventually resulted in the consideration of two sites.

- Site 1 – At the stadium
- Site 2 – In front of the High School off of Mt. Rock Road

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors authorize the administration to proceed with design and construction of an “All Weather Track” at Site 2 (In front of the High School) at a cost not to exceed \$725,000 for design and construction.

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### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (. . .continued)

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Blasco to approve the recommended as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, and McCrea. Voting No: Piper, Blasco, and Wolf. Motion carried. 4 – 3

Mr. Fry stated that on behalf of the administration I thought this was important that we get this on the agenda that we can have a discussion and summarize the administration position on this. We feel this is a window of opportunity to move forward in support of an all-weather track. As you look at the fiscal side of this it is in the ballpark of \$22,000 a year for nine years. The tenth year the amount goes up. If you go to page 3 it shows you how wrap around debt works. From the track and district need, we see this being used by physical education classes and the opportunity for community use.

Mr. Swanson indicated that something that has always bothered him is the land out there has been empty since the high school was built. All we have done is mow it. I would not be in favor of the track being on the football field stadium. I will support it at this location.

Mr. McCrea made a comment concerning Mr. Barrick's notes. Where did you ever get the idea under pro that the cinder track that we use now is just fine? It is not. We have needed another track for 45 years.

Mr. Barrick stated that he was just collecting comments to share. These are not my thoughts. They are just comments that I have heard.

Mr. Piper indicated that philosophically I'm not opposed to a new truck. I am just opposed to a new track at this point in time. As much as we are spending 2.2 million dollars to improve the stadium, I am not in favor of spending another \$800,000 to add a new track whether it is at the existing track or the site across from Mt. Rock Elementary School. I just can't see adding this to the debt for the next nine years.

Mr. Blasco inquired where we are in this wrap around debt. How does this fit into things in light of any future projects we might have? How does this impact Neville or any other building we might need to do work on?

Mr. Kerr informed on the Board of School Directors that he can provide a summary to the Board that outlines the wrap around debt.

A lengthy discussion was held by the Board of School Directors concerning finances, future projects, and options for an all-weather track.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (. . . .continued)**

**(DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM)**

**L) Agreement of Sale and Purchase**

Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools would like to continue discussions regarding the Agreement of Sale and Purchase between the Big Spring School District and River Rock Academy, Inc.

The administration recommends that the Board of School Directors move forward with the approval of the Agreement of Sale of Purchase between the Big Spring School District and River Rock Academy, Inc.

Motion by McCrea, seconded by Blasco to move that the Board authorize the District to employ Steve Wiser, Conodoguinet Excavating to dig six deep holes on the Mifflin School site for \$200 or less with the work to be done within the next two weeks. The work will be observed and monitored by the Board members and a municipal sewage officer. The total cost not to exceed \$500 if we need to compensate the sewage officer. Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously.  
7 – 0.

**(INFORMATION ITEM)**

**M) Proposed Updated Bullying/Cyber Bullying Policy**

The administration has submitted the updated policy listed for Board review.

**238 Bullying/Cyber Bullying Policy**

The updated policy will be an action item on the October 5, 2015 Board Agenda.

**XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

There were no future Board agenda items.

**XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. District Improvement Committee – Mr. Norris/Mr. McCrea**

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered.

**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**

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered. Mr. Barrick asked how is the process going at Oak Flat with the traffic pattern?. How are we going with the proposal for Penn Dot?

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

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered.

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

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered.

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

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered.

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

No meeting was conducted and no report was offered.

**XVI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

1. **Friday** – It was a great atmosphere for kids on Friday night. We collaborated for well over two days to make sure that our kids and community were safe. South Middleton was willing to do what we felt was appropriate to ensure the safety of our student athletes, students and their families.

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2. **Saturday** – We followed that with a cross county event with around 3000 folks on this campus. It did go smooth as our events typically go but it was all about kids. As we host the District Cross Country Event in October, I have no doubt it will be phenomenally run. It will be a great experience. I believe we had 90 teams here.
3. **Battle of the Bands** – At the end of this month, we have the Battle of the Bands at the stadium. It is September 26<sup>th</sup>. Any Board member interested in attending, just let me know. I will get you some tickets.
4. **Principal Effectiveness Program** – As part of this program, our goal timeline has changed. It will be December to December. Our goals will be multi-year goals. I will update the Board more in December.
5. **Cyber** – Three weeks ago, we had a student enroll back at Big Spring. For two years, they went to cyber. When the student left here, the student was a regular education student. While in cyber, the student was identified as special needs student. You will recall for regular education students our tax payers pay roughly \$10,000. For special education students, our taxpayers pay \$23,000. This student went to the cyber-school for two year and earned a credit and half for \$46,000. It is safe to say that over the course of two years, the student did not grow academically.

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

Mr. Piper inquired if the CAIU is borrowing 2 million. Who pays the interest for that money?

Mr. Wolf stated that anyone using the CAIU services pays the money.

Mr. Fry informed the Board of School Directors they do not have a tax base. They are not a taxing body. Without the state subsidy, they have no funds to pay their staff. Without contracts, they fail to exist.

Mr. Swanson indicated that he spoke with Pat Vance. They have only had a couple of phone calls from the public about passing the budget. There is no pressure to get things done.

Mr. Fry stated that we get roughly 36 percent from the state. Schools are talking about closing. It is really going to hit schools around October.

Mr. Barrick asked about SAMS – Source4Teachers. How is it doing?

Mr. Fry informed the Board that four districts went together. We are in the best shape out of the four. Our rate of coverage is similar to last year.

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

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote:  
Voting Yes: Wolf, Swanson, Barrick, Gutshall, McCrea, Piper, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously. 7 – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

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Robert L. Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, October 5, 2015**