

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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 8:01 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Seven (7) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; Richard Norris; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

William Swanson, Vice President, and Sandra Rosenberry Deaver 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; Lauren Swartz and Brooke Clouse, Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

III. PRAYER

Director Blasco offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2009, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, THE OCTOBER 5, 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES AND THE OCTOBER 5, 2009 BUILDING AND PROPERTY MEETING MINUTES.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris for approval of the October 5, 2009 Buildings and Property Committee Meeting Minutes; the October 5, 2009 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the October 5, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Lauren Swartz and Brooke Clouse

The students offered the following report:

- A. The Little Brown Jug (LBJ) football game against Shippensburg Area Senior High School will be held on Friday, October 23, 2009. This week is Spirit Week to encourage enthusiasm for the game. A pep rally, as well as a parade and a bonfire, are slated for Thursday, October 22, 2009, after the volleyball game. More than 400 LBJ T-shirts have been sold to encourage school spirit for the event.
- B. On Tuesday, October 13, 2009, the music department inducted a charter class of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, the international music honor society for middle/junior high and high school students designed to recognize students for academic and musical achievements.
- C. Senior Flutist Dominic Baldoni and Junior Clarinetist Elaina McGann were selected to the Harrisburg Youth Symphony Orchestra at the beginning of October.
- D. The Big Spring Band Boosters and marching band hosted the "Sounds of the Spring" band festival on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at the Big Spring stadium. The show was the first band festival hosted by Big Spring in nearly 30 years. Performing bands included Cedar Cliff, Red Land, Susquehannock, and Williamsport.
- E. The Marching Bulldogs have received two first-place trophies at both competitions they have participated in this year. Bulldogs are ranked fourth overall in Group I.
- F. The marching band will participate in Northern States Championships on Saturday, October 31, 2009, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and at the National Championships on Friday morning, November 6, 2009, at the U.S. Naval Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland.
- G. Last week, FFA members made an excellent showing at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition Stockman's Contest. There were more than 320 individuals and more than 80 teams of competitors from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, North Carolina, and West Virginia.
- H. The Student Council will host a blood drive on Thursday, October 22, 2009.
- I. Student Council members are fundraising to support leadership conferences throughout the school year, summer leadership conferences, and teacher appreciation activities.
- J. Club Care will send two students to "the caring place," a grievance program for students who have lost loved ones. The students will learn what it is like to help individuals participating in the caring place.
- K. Guidelines have been established to permit tailgating before home football games.
- L. The boys' soccer team is performing well and could qualify for district competition.
- M. Kathleen Woods has advanced to district competition in golf.
- N. The National Honor Society will induct 40 new members on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. NHS members will help with Oak Flat Elementary School's fall festival on Saturday, October 24, 2009.
- O. The Wellness Committee has been brainstorming activities that could encourage students to stay active and healthy.
- P. The art students have painted a fall scene on the Saylor's Market windows.
- Q. Cantabile performed for the military's flag-burning ceremony at Thornwald Park. Fox 43 television station featured the event.
- R. The Cumberland County Chorus Festival is slated for November 23 and 24, 2009, at Boiling Springs High School.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report showed a General Fund ending cash and investment balance of \$10,594,181.61 as of September 30, 2009; an Athletic Fund balance of \$4,308.12 as of September 30, 2009; a Cafeteria Fund balance of \$174,009.59 as of September 30, 2009; Capital Reserve Fund investment balance of \$173,241.50 as of September 30, 2009; and a Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund cash balance of \$138,423.14 as of September 30, 2009.

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

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund Account checks #55706-55894 totaling \$370,461.43 and Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13323-13350 and voided check #13336 totaling \$2,244.10, Central Treasury Cafeteria Account checks #4655-4656 and checks #5075-5098 and voided check #5075 totaling \$101,991.48, and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #10419-11656 totaling \$14,855.94. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Cafeteria, and Student Activity/Miscellaneous: \$489,552.95. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Molli Davis, Steve Fosburg, April Messenger, and Samantha Meyer.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was offered.

XI. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No structured public comment was offered.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

**(NOTE: The Board addressed
XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-5,
following Item A-5.)**

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teacher (ACTION ITEM)

Wendy Byerly – Elementary Education

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

(ACTION ITEM)

2. Substitute Custodial Workers

The individuals whose names are listed below are recommended to serve as custodial substitutes during the 2009-2010 school year.

**Felicia Felts
Arthur Tubbs**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Felts and Mr. Tubbs as custodial substitutes, effective immediately.

3. 2009-2010 Additional Bus Driver for Deitch Busing (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Toni Failor

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

4. Volunteer Coach (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director recommended the individual listed below as a volunteer cheerleading coach for the 2009-2010 school year.

Danielle Teter

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the recommendation of Danielle Teter as a volunteer cheerleading coach.

(ACTION ITEM)

5. Mrs. Jessica Winesickle submitted her letter of resignation as Public Relations person.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Winesickle's resignation as the Public Relations person.

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

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-5, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Credit Pay

(ACTION ITEM)

The professional employee whose name is listed below has successfully completed graduate work and is entitled to the specified amounts in accordance with the negotiated contract.

Mark Potter \$789.99

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

C. Additional Post-Graduation Party Fundraisers

(ACTION ITEM)

The Post-Graduation Party Committee is requesting permission from the Board of School Directors to conduct the additional fundraiser listed during the 2009-2010 school year.

Kidstuff Coupon Books

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

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

D. Bid Award for Snow Removal Contracts

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Richard Sample, Director of Buildings and Grounds, received a snow removal bid from one contractor for the upcoming winter months. The contractor that submitted the bid is Blue Mountain Excavation, Inc., providing the bid in multiple categories of equipment; \$85.00 per hour for a tractor and backhoe, \$75.00 per hour for a 4-wheel drive pickup, \$110.00 per hour for a high lift, \$85.00 per hour for a skid load, \$45.00 hand labor and \$24.00 for salt spread/50lbs.

Copies of the bid documents appear in the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors award the contract for snow removal to Blue Mountain Excavation, Inc. for the quoted rates as presented.

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

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

E. HIPP Program **(ACTION ITEM)**

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent, recommended to discontinue the HIPP Program at the High School due to the budget cuts and uncertainties.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Temple's recommendation to discontinue the HIPP program at the High School due to budget cuts.

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

F. Proposed Updated Job Description for the Transportation Coordinator/Substitute Teacher Coordinator **(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Richard Gilliam, Food Service Director/Transportation Director, made some revisions to the job description for the Transportation Coordinator/Substitute Teacher Coordinator.

A copy of the job description was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the job description for the Transportation Coordinator/Substitute Teacher Coordinator.

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

G. Adoption of Safety Procedure and Appointment of Loss Control Administrator and a Claims Coordinator **(ACTION ITEM)**

The SDIC requires an annual adoption of the safety procedures and appointments in order to offer a 5% reduction in Workmen's Compensation rate. This requires all board members to sign.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors adopt the Safety Procedures included and appoint Richard Kerr as the Loss Control Administrator, Deb Peduzzi as the Claims Coordinator, and Rick Sample as the Safety Committee Coordinator.

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, and Wolf. Voting No: Blasco. Total Yes votes: Six (6). Total No votes: One (1). Motion carried by a majority vote.

H. Contractor Payments (#6) for DAO Boiler Replacement - Capital Reserve Fund **(ACTION ITEM)**

McKissick Associates reviewed payment application from Herre Bros., Inc., for work performed on the project. These payments will come from the Capital Reserve Fund. A copy of the payment application in the amount of \$4,500.00 for the plumbing contract was included in the Board packet. After these payments, the balance remaining to be paid is \$73,021.90 for plumbing. (No HVAC submittal received.)

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

H. Contractor Payments (#6) for DAO Boiler Replacement - Capital Reserve Fund (Continued)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve payment from the Capital Reserve Fund to Herre Bros., Inc., in the amount of \$4,500 for the plumbing contract.

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

(ACTION ITEM)

I. Auditor General's Report for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006

Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent of Schools received a letter from Connie L. Derr, Audit Coordinator for the Department of Education, in which Ms. Derr indicates that "...the Department of Education is required to secure a response to the audit reports issued by the office of the Auditor General." The main objectives of the directive "...are to ensure that the responsible parties are cognizant of the findings and/or observations cited in these audit reports and that an official corrective action plan has been instituted."

Copies of the Performance Audit Response for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 were included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the administration to submit the response as prepared by the administration.

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

(INFORMATION ITEM)

J. Corrective Action Plan for the Agriculture Program

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent, received the final written Agriculture Program evaluation from the Department of Education and the department has identified strengths and needs for the program.

Mrs. Temple submitted a corrective action plan for board review.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mrs. Temple indicated that this was a routine evaluation and that there appears to be no set number of years between evaluations.

Mr. Fry noted that this plan was required as part of the federal process for the Perkins program. The agriculture program is Big Spring's only Perkins program.

K. Agriculture Advisory Council Agenda and Minutes

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Ms. SaraBeth Wanbaugh and Mrs. Sherisa Nailor submitted a copy of the Agriculture Advisory Council agenda and meeting minutes to the Big Spring Board of School Directors as a requirement by the state to keep the program in approval status.

A copy of the Agriculture Advisory agenda and minutes were included with the agenda.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

L. 2009-2010 General Fund Year to Date Report (INFORMATION ITEM)

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

M. 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.

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

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.

The JOC will meet on Monday, October 26, 2009.

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

1. The District has received PlanCon A approval for **Plainfield Elementary School**.

The following items with regard to Plainfield Elementary School were discussed at the most recent BAT meeting:

- a. Efforts to save as much money as possible in the project included the following considerations: removing stormwater retention under the playing fields; removing parking spaces, but maintaining the site such that, if needed, it could be easily changed later; removing the gray-water system and possibly including an underground cistern as opposed to a silo-type structure as originally proposed; and downsizing the size of the well field to serve a two-deep facility as opposed to a three-deep facility. BAT members requested savings estimates for these cuts. The proposed cuts excluding the aforementioned items would decrease the approximate cost of the Newville and Plainfield Elementary School projects from \$17 million to \$14 million.
- b. There is a proposal to bid the gymnasium as a “two-thirds gymnasium” or a full-sized gymnasium. The final decision on gymnasium size could be made after bids are received.
- c. The BAT members recommended maintaining existing paved areas to provide additional parking for after-school activities.
- d. The estimated cost per square foot would be \$188. The average cost per square foot for school buildings in our region built in 2008 was \$165 to \$225.

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XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

2. The following items were discussed with regard to the proposed **Newville Elementary School** renovation/construction project:
 - a. A reconfiguration of the administration area is being considered to improve safety. BAT members selected what appeared to be the best plan for that area.
 - b. BAT members requested cost estimates for replacing the existing roof with a pitched roof that would be suitable for the installation of photovoltaic panels. The roof is beginning to leak, and it is nearing the end of the warranty period. There is potential for County and/or State grants for the photovoltaic panels. The grant status would be known prior to the Board's final decisions on the Newville Elementary School project.
 - c. BAT members will address color patterns for the project soon.

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

Director Blasco indicated that the Commonwealth Foundation issued a report that forecasts a \$1,300 increase for each taxpayer in the State by 2012 because of the PSERS shortfall. In addition, the group estimated an average property tax increase of \$385 to support PSERS during this time period.

Mr. Fry indicated that, with the Statewide Average Weekly Wage Index as it is now, many school districts would not be able to meet the PSERS demands, even with the exception that is provided for PSERS increases.

Mr. Blasco indicated that he knows of no legislation on the horizon to fix this problem. It appears that the next State Governor and the taxpayers will be forced to find a solution.

Mr. Barrick indicated that government officials have been ignoring this problem for at least 14 years.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

State funding for the CAIU has flat-lined for next year. With the increases in salaries and increases in the cost of operations, an increase in cost would be passed on to the clients of the CAIU.

H. Cumberland County Tax Collection Committee – Mr. Wolf

The first meeting of the Cumberland County Tax Collection Committee went well. The committee will meet again in two weeks. A decision has not been made with regard to a single tax collector; however, a decision could be made at the next meeting. The sooner that decision is made, the smoother any possible transition would be.

The group will appoint a solicitor at the next meeting.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. PSBA Events

Superintendent Fry reported that two students took part in PSBA events last week. Both had a rewarding experience.

B. School Attendance

Mr. Fry reported the following absentee rates:

School	Average Absentees Rate In the last two weeks	Absentee Rate For Today
Mount Rock Elementary School	5 percent	5 percent
Newville Elementary School	6 percent	9 percent
Oak Flat Elementary School	5 percent	10 percent
Plainfield Elementary School	3 percent	7 percent
Middle School	5 percent	9 percent
High School	7 to 10 percent	14 percent (144 students absent)

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Fry indicated that it is Cumberland County’s call when to activate the point of distribution (POD) areas.

Mr. Fry indicated that he would continue to communicate information about the swine flu to the community via Global Connect.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

PSBA Conference

Director Barrick reported that the PSBA proposed healthcare platform was defeated by a vote of 61 to 232.

In addition, the carefully crafted Keystone exams platform was defeated by a vote of 90 to 194. The defeated platform supported the Keystone exams with the caveat that changes must be made before the exams are suitable for students across the academic spectrum.

One person spoke in favor of the platform, while many speakers opposed the platform, called the question, and immediately voted down the platform. Mr. Barrick indicated that there appear to be some people in the state who would rather stick their heads in the sand instead of move forward with platforms that could change the Keystone exams in a positive way.

Mr. Fry indicated that he would speak before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission on Thursday, October 22, 2009, on this issue, and he provided the members of the Board of School Directors with copies of his prepared statement.

Mr. Barrick indicated that the platform committee spent four hours crafting the Keystone exams proposal; however, he indicated that PSBA’s hands are now tied, and their only possible answer to the Keystone Exams is “no,” an answer that does not help school districts one bit.

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XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR (Continued)

PSBA Conference (Continued)

Mr. Barrick indicated that the opposition to the Keystone exams platform began soliciting support immediately after the conference in August when the proposal was written. Attendance at the voting conference increased by approximately 100. After the vote on Keystone exams, many individuals left the conference.

President Wolf indicated that, in his opinion, requiring all students to have the breadth of knowledge required in the Keystone exams to earn a diploma is "not right." Mr. Wolf indicated that he has no problem with using the Keystone exams to determine AYP; however, he believes that using the Keystone exam as a graduation component is not a fair requirement.

Mr. Fry indicated that there have been modifications to the Keystone exams in that if a student fails the test two times, a hands-on assessment could be administered.

Mr. Fry noted that the legislature withdrew its power to make any decisions related to the Keystone exams.

There is apparently no line item in the State budget for the Keystone exams; however, school districts are being assured that there is money in the budget to move forward with the exams at this time.

It is expected that the Keystone exams would be implemented by 2014.

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

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

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, November 2, 2009