

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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 8:03 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Seven (7) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; Richard Norris; and William Piper. 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; Rick Sample, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Cora Agar and Douglas Kennedy, 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 Piper offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE OCTOBER 19, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris for approval of the October 19, 2009 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes, as amended in Item II., PRESENTATION, K., Summary, #17; and the October 19, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Cora Agar and Doug Kennedy

The students reported the following:

- A. The second marking period began on October 30, 2009.
- B. Season Rinesmith and her palomino earned the State Champion award during an October 23, 2009 competition for three-year-old palomino/fillies class at the 4-H State Horse Show.
- C. PSSA scores are coming closer to the District's goals. From 2008 to 2009, reading scores increased 3.1 percent, while mathematics scores increased 9.5 percent. All teachers are incorporating mathematics and reading strategies into the curriculum.
- D. Senior Night was celebrated on Friday, October 30, 2009. Forty football, marching band, and golf seniors were honored.
- E. The Marching Bulldogs attended the USSBA Northern States Championships on Saturday, October 31, 2009. The band maintained the rank of fifth place and scored 89.563. The band will travel to the U.S. Naval Stadium in Annapolis for their final competition, the USSBA National Championships, on Friday, November 6, 2009.
- F. Big Spring students auditioned for District Chorus on Saturday, October 31, 2009. Dru Kepner placed 5th of 125 students and will perform along with 24 Soprano I singers at a festival held in January 2010.
- G. The Dawg Pound sold 600 shirts to support the football team's Little Brown Jug game.
- H. The dance team performed and placed 1st of 15 groups in the Newville Halloween Parade.
- I. Last week the SADD Club conducted Red Ribbon week to raise awareness with regard to drug issues.
- J. The National Honor Society began its annual District/community-wide food drive and Star Tree activities.
- K. Student Council members are planning to attend the State Conference November 12 to 14, 2009.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

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 and Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account Payment of Bills; and the Capital Reserve Account Payment of Bills

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund Account checks #55895-55897 totaling \$249,989.37; Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #11351-13429 totaling \$10,124.35 and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #10437-11675 totaling \$12,054.45; and Capital Reserve Account checks #545-546 totaling \$5,588.35. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$277,756.52.

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Fry indicated that the \$56,000.00 PLATO fee is an annual expense, and he added that the District is using the PLATO program.

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

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Sam Sheeler, Charlene D'Amore, and April Messenger.

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.)**

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teachers (ACTION ITEM)

**Jean Morda – Elementary Education
Jennifer Noll – Elementary Education
Amy Fry – Sociology/Recreation Administration**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additions of Jean Morda, Jennifer Noll and Amy Fry to the 2009-2010 per diem substitute teacher list as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

2. Mrs. Sherri Webber-Mains, high school guidance counselor, requested four days of leave without pay for March 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2010.

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 Mrs. Webber-Mains' request for four days of leave without pay for March 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2010.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

3. Substitute Custodial Worker (ACTION ITEM)

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

Mr. David Showers

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Showers as a custodial substitute, pending all required paperwork.

4. Coaching Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

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

Michael Berry	Junior High Boys Basketball
Keith Lehman	Junior High Boys Basketball
Doug Lautsbaugh	Junior Varsity Golf Coach

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.

5. Volunteer Coach (ACTION ITEM)

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

Evan Long

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the recommendation of Evan Long as a volunteer wrestling coach.

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-5, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Facilities Utilization Request (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Leroy Sheriff, Jr., requested permission to use the high school gym and commons area from 6:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, January 24, 2010 for Dog Duals Tournament. Because the utilization date is on a Sunday, Board action is necessary.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Facilities Utilization Request (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Sheriff's request to use the high school gym and commons area from 6:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. on January 24, 2010, as presented.

Mr. Fry explained that the administration requested that organizations avoid scheduling activities on Sunday mornings. Mr. Fry, Vice President Swanson, and Mr. Hockenbroch met with those associated with the wrestling event at issue and reached a compromise in which the group would schedule only one such event per year at Big Spring. Staff coverage would be structured such that "no one will have to work who does not want to work" on that Sunday. In the event of inclement weather, the competition would be canceled.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that the wrestling item that brought for the Board's approval was an entirely different group.

In response to a question from Director Piper, Mr. Fry indicated that in prior years, the District hosted as many as three of these wrestling events.

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

C. Approval of PLANCON Parts D & E for Plainfield Project

(ACTION ITEM)

The Board previously approved the Newville project submission to PDE based on a total project cost of \$3.388 million with a financed amount of \$3.350 million. Newville is not a PlanCon reimbursable project. McKissick Associates has submitted for Board approval the Plainfield PlanCon Part D (Project Accounting based on Estimates) and PlanCon Part E (Design Development). These are included in the packet. The total cost for Plainfield is \$11.338 million with \$11.275 million financed. The total bond issue for the two projects would be for \$14,625,000.

The administration recommended the Board approve PlanCon Parts D & E for Plainfield, as provided by McKissick & Associates, at a total cost not to exceed \$11,338,000.

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

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.

The District Improvement Committee will meet on Thursday, November 13, 2009, at 6:00 P.M.

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XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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

President Wolf reported that the vo-tech school is off to a good start this year. An effort is being made to incorporate mathematics into every part of the curriculum. Rewards are given in response to the successful completion of a weekly math question. Each trade is encouraged to focus on math as it applies to that trade.

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

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

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

In an effort to be fiscally conservative, the Capital Area Intermediate Unit is accepting fewer State projects than they had in the past because of the uncertainty associated with State funding.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Keystone Exams

Mr. Fry indicated that he testified regarding Keystone Exams before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). The IRRC voted four (4) to one (1) in favor of implementing the Keystone Exams.

Mr. Fry recommended that the District not oppose the Keystone Exams but that it should make an effort to change the current proposal in areas that cause the "most consternation." Teachers are taking part in developing the test, and implementation of the test would be three years from now.

Mr. Fry indicated that he has concerns with regard to the test counting as 33 percent of a senior's final grade. This percentage could change in the future. Other states count similar tests as only 20 percent of a senior's final grade. By the school year 2015-2016, the Keystone Exam could determine whether a student could earn a Big Spring diploma.

PSEA and PSBA are making efforts to "invigorate the process." It is believed that school districts will not fight the test unless a legislator steps in to spearhead such an initiative.

A panel will investigate the possibility of including the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) test as an alternative to the Keystone Exam for qualified students. The NOCTI test could be administered at the vo-tech school as well as Big Spring, specifically for students focused on agriculture studies.

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XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

B. Attendance During H1N1 Flu Season

Superintendent Fry noted that absenteeism rates have been fluctuating in the face of H1N1 flu season, and he reported the following absenteeism statistics for today:

- Mount Rock Elementary School, 7 percent
- Oak Flat Elementary School, 9 percent
- Newville Elementary School, 16 percent. One class of 22 students had 16 students absent today.
- Plainfield Elementary School, the high school, and the middle school reported the best attendance today since the middle of October.

Mr. Fry indicated that families are being prudent and requiring sick children to remain at home.

On Thursday, the administration tweaked the absentee excuse policy that requires a doctor's excuse for three or more days of absence. Local doctors are inundated with sick calls and have declined to see students with flu symptoms; therefore, the administration is requiring a regular excuse note from the parent/guardian and not a doctor's excuse for a student who is absent for three or more days. This is a temporary policy change and requires no Board approval.

C. H1N1 Order Confirmation

Big Spring School District has received confirmation for an order of 1,800 injections and 1,000 mist inoculations for the H1N1 flu. The delivery date is unknown.

Nurse Madden and the administration are continuing the planning process for distributing the vaccines.

Mr. Fry will update the Board as information becomes available.

D. Congratulations, Ms. Karen Kough, 2010 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Finalist!

Superintendent Fry congratulated Ms. Karen Kough, Plainfield Elementary School teacher who was recently named one of twelve finalists in the 2010 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year contest.

Mr. Fry noted that it is an honor that Big Spring School District is the only school district to have three top-12 finalists, teachers who are among the best of the best teachers across the state, for three consecutive years.

Mr. Fry and Mr. Piper attended the awards ceremony, and Mr. Fry indicated that Ms. Kough represented Big Spring with "total grace" and did a "fantastic job" at the awards ceremony. Mr. Fry indicated that, although another finalist was selected as Teacher of the Year, Ms. Kough was "treated as you'd love your teachers to be treated" at the awards ceremony.

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XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Vote Tomorrow!

Director Barrick encouraged everyone to vote in the November 3, 2009 election.

B. Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Banquet

Director Lopp encouraged interested Board members to attend the informative Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Banquet on Thursday, November 12, 2009, from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. at the Penn Township Fire Hall. The cost of the banquet is \$9.00.

C. PSERS Dilemma

Director Blasco commended Mr. Thomas J. Gentzel, PSBA's executive director, for a "superb job presenting the PSERS dilemma on the PCN network." Mr. Gentzel impressed upon the legislature the importance of resolving the PSERS funding dilemma. Mr. Blasco encouraged the administration to send a letter to Mr. Gentzel thanking him for his presentation.

D. Teacher of the Year

President Wolf indicated that Channel 8's coverage of the 2010 Teacher of the Year contest. Mr. Wolf indicated that a Grade 2 student from Plainfield Elementary School did an outstanding job of supporting Ms. Karen Kough's nomination for Teacher of the Year. Mr. Wolf noted that he is proud of Big Spring's teachers and students.

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, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, November 16, 2009