

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

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### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring High School Large Group Room, Room 140, at 8:04 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Eight (8) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; David Gutshall; Richard Norris; and William Piper.

Richard Roush was absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Denny Clopper, The Valley Times-Star; Joseph Brown and Sarah Weingarten, 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 Roush offered a prayer

### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, THE NOVEMBER 1, 2010 COMMITTEE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES AND THE NOVEMBER 1, 2010 BUILDING AND PROPERTY MEETING MINUTES.**

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris for approval of the November 1, 2010 Buildings and Property Committee Meeting Minutes; the November 1, 2010 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the November 1, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, 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 - Joey Brown/Sarah Weingarten**

- A. Big Spring students represented every vo-tech career at a recent vo-tech open house. The students provided demonstrations and explained their work to visitors.
- B. The Pennsylvania School Press Association conference on November 5-6, 2010, was a "huge success." Mr. Hanks is the president of the organization, and 25 Big Spring students and four Big Spring advisors attended the conference.
- C. Several activities were held last week to honor veterans. The second annual Tempus Veterans Day breakfast was offered on Monday, November 8, 2010. A flag-changing ceremony was held on Friday, November 12, 2010. Thirty veterans attended the ceremony. A video presentation of the event was offered this evening.
- D. The opening weekend of Arsenic and Old Lace was a success. Shows will be offered again this coming weekend.
- E. Thirty-five teams participated in the fifth annual dodgeball tournament to raise money for the Four Diamonds fund.
- F. The football team qualified for the playoffs this year at Lampeter-Strasburg School District but lost 41-13.
- G. The high school band placed fifth at a state competition on November 5, 2010, and returned to Greencastle-Antrim to play the halftime show for that evening's football game.
- H. Sophomores visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum during a class trip to Washington, DC, on November 5, 2010.
- I. Cheerleaders placed first at the Central Dauphin Cheerfest on November 6, 2010, and third in the Cedar Crest Cheer Challenge.
- J. The National Honor Society inducted 27 juniors and seniors on November 9, 2010. Students are admitted based on the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.
- K. Math and English teachers used the two-hour delay day on November 9, 2010, to study MAPs data, and same-subject teachers discussed instructional strategies to help their struggling students improve. All other departments received initial MAPs training and began addressing the interpretation of the MAPs results.
- L. Beginning with the Class of 2015 (next year's freshmen), statewide standardized online Keystone exams will replace final examinations in 11 high school courses. Initially, Keystone examinations will be administered in English composition, literature, Algebra I, and biology.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

**VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

General Fund	<b>\$ 16,114,648.58</b>
Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund	<b>180,386.01</b>
Cafeteria Fund	<b>160,188.56</b>
Capital Projects	<b>1,228,024.81</b>
Total	<b>\$17,683,247.96</b>

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

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**VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

General Fund	<b>\$311,896.85</b>	<b>Checks #60064-60247</b>
Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund	<b>22,005.23</b>	<b>Checks #12299-12337 and voided Check #12318</b>
Cafeteria Fund	<b>121,445.99</b>	<b>Checks #5328-5344</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 455,348.07</b>	

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Blasco for approval of General Fund, Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund, and Cafeteria Fund payments of bills as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no reading of correspondence.

**IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Charlene D'Amore.

**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-9,  
following Item A-9.)**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

- 1. Ms. Rebecca McKee** submitted her letter of resignation as an instructional aide at the middle school, retroactive to November 12, 2010.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. McKee's resignation as an Instructional Aide at the Middle School, retroactive to November 12, 2010.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**2. Rebecca Whigham**  
Carlisle, PA 17015

Long-Term Substitute High School English Teacher  
(replacing Mrs. Bethany Pagze who is on child-rearing leave)

**Education:**

Kenyon College (Bachelor's of Science/Sociology)  
Wilson College (Certification English Education)

**Experience:**

Big Spring School District – Student Teacher  
Diakon Wilderness Center: Wilderness Challenge Program – Instructor/Assistant Director

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Whigham to serve as a Long-Term Substitute High School English Teacher, replacing Mrs. Bethany Pagze, who is on child-rearing leave. Mrs. Whigham's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, Step 1 \$40,092.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

**3. Additional Per Diem Substitute Guest Teachers**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

In an attempt to provide a sufficient number of substitute teachers for the 2010-2011 school year, the Big Spring School District is working in cooperation with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit to sponsor the "Guest Teacher Program." The individuals whose names appear below have participated in an orientation program sponsored by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and has been issued an emergency certification by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Jessica Furby  
Luke Nerone**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additions of the above-named guest teachers to the 2010-2011 per diem substitute teacher list, effective immediately.

**4. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Justine Sieg**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mrs. Justine Sieg, business teacher at the high school, requested leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act from approximately May 19, 2011 through approximately the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. According to Section 3.08 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the District, a professional employee may request up to one year of child-rearing leave upon the birth of a child. In addition to the duration of the leave period, her request meets all provisions for a child-rearing leave according to the current contract.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Sieg's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence from approximately May 19, 2011 through approximately the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, according to the terms of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

5. **Mrs. Jolene Regetta** requested an extended child-rearing leave of absence to January 3, 2011, from the approval date of November 30, 2010.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Regetta's extended child-rearing leave of absence to January 3, 2011.

**6. Cafeteria Worker**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a cafeteria worker during the 2010-2011 school year.

**Ms. Angela Chumbley**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Chumbley as a cafeteria worker as presented.

**(ACTION ITEM)**

7. **Mrs. Gina Froment** was recommended to serve as Eighth Grade Team Leader at the Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Froment to serve as Eighth Grade Team Leader at the Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year.

**8. PC Technician**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology recommended Mr. Todd Friscia as a PC Technician for the 2010-2011 school year, replacing Mr. Seth Cornman, who has resigned.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Friscia as a PC Technician as presented.

**9. PC Technician Salary**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The administration recommended that Mr. Todd Friscia's compensation for the position of PC Technician be established at \$16.75 an hour.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Friscia's compensation of \$16.75 an hour as presented.

**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-9, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS** (Continued)

**B. Case C of 2010-2011**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The parents of the student in Case C of 2010-2011 school year waived their right to a formal student discipline hearing before the Board of School Directors.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors exclude the student in Case C of 2010-2011 school year for a period of one (1) year. The student will be placed in an Alternative School from November 4, 2010, through November 4, 2011. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted on school property at any time for any reason.

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

**C. Athletic Booster Club Annual Audit**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The Big Spring School District received a copy of a letter from Ms. Clouse advising that the Athletic Booster Club records are in good order and accurately reflect the financial transactions for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept the 2008-2010 Athletic Booster Club annual audit report as presented.

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

**D. Plainfield PTO Fundraisers**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The Plainfield Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is requesting permission to conduct the additional fundraiser listed below for the 2010-2011 school term.

**Computer Barn Fundraiser**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Plainfield Elementary Parent Teacher Organization's request to conduct the fundraisers listed above during the 2010-2011 school term.

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

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**E. DAO Boiler Project – Final Payment (ACTION ITEM)**

On May 17, 2010 the Board approved a \$6,081 change order to install a larger impeller supporting the rooftop unit over the MS cafeteria as part of the DAO boiler project; at that time \$6,500 of the final project payment was withheld pending the completion and impeller install. Herre Bros was approved on September 7, 2010 for the actual impeller installment payment. Last week the engineering group, including Mr. Sample, met to finalize the balancing issues. At that time all agreed that Herre Bros. met all of their responsibilities on this project and the hold back should be released from the capital projects fund (formerly capital reserve fund)

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the final payment of \$6,500 to Herre Bros, Inc.

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

**F. Contractor Payment #9 for Newville Project – Construction Fund (ACTION ITEM)**

McKissick Associates reviewed the payment applications for work performed on the Newville Addition & Renovation project. These payments will come from the construction fund established by the 2010 bond for this project. A copy of the completed and notarized payment applications was included with the agenda in the following amounts:

<u>Prime</u>	<u>Vendor / App #</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	eciConstruction, LLC	\$253,694.71	\$206,694.71
Plumbing	Mann Plumbing and Heating, LLC	\$4,172.40	\$8,273.60
HVAC	MidState Mech & Elec, LLC	\$93,846.76	\$53,489.37
Electrical	MidState Mech & Elec, LLC	\$36,743.31	\$180,937.02
		\$388,457.18	\$449,394.70

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve payment from the construction fund to, to eciConstruction, LLC in the amount of \$253,694.71, Mann Plumbing and Heating, LLC, in the amount of \$4,172.40, to MidState Mechanical & Electrical, LLC, in the amount of \$93,846.76 for HVAC and \$36,743.31 for electrical.

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

**G. Updated Year-to-Date Summaries/Taxes and General Fund (INFORMATION ITEM)**

The Business Office prepared updated year-to-date summaries for taxes and general fund that were included with the agenda.

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### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### **G. Updated Year-to-Date Summaries/Taxes and General Fund (INFORMATION ITEM)** (Continued)

Mr. Kerr indicated that, while the earned income tax collections are below historical averages, the collections are ahead of budget projections for this year. Real estate collections are doing well compared with the budget and historical collection.

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Kerr indicated that delinquent taxes are consistent with prior years, and he expects the collection of those taxes to be comparable with past years.

### XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM

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 18, 2010, at 6:00 P.M.

#### **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**

Director Barrick encouraged Board members to visit Newville Elementary School after dark and view the LED parking lot lights.

#### **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**

The CAIU Board will meet on Thursday, November 18, 2010.

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

The Tax Collection Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 16, 2010.

**XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Veterans Day Activities**

Superintendent Fry reported that Veterans Day activities Districtwide were a success, reflecting the pride and patriotism throughout the District. Activities included elementary school special announcements followed by a video tribute to veterans; photographs of family members serving in the military displayed in schools; red, white, and blue bulletin board displays; presentations by veterans; a breakfast; and a flag-changing ceremony, to name a few. Mr. Fry indicated that presenters did a phenomenal job, and he is proud of the week's activities that demonstrated support for veterans.

**B. Proposed Elementary School Reconfiguration Transportation**

Mr. Fry indicated that at the December 20, 2010 Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting, Mr. Gilliam, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Deitch, and Mr. Fry would present transportation information related to the proposed elementary school reconfiguration. Mr. Fry indicated that this has been a "cooperative and collaborative" process. All bus routes are calculated to be no more than 50 minutes in length, including shuttle time. Deficiencies have been identified that require Board discussion.

Big Spring's transportation costs are approximately \$2.2 million annually, and members of the administration continually investigate ways to implement cost avoidance with regard to transportation.

Following the December 20, 2010 Board meeting, the Board could choose to schedule a meeting to present the information to the public. Official Board action regarding the proposed reconfiguration would be requested in January 2011.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that he hopes to know more about the proposed Laughlin Mill Bridge situation soon. The current timeline for construction on the bridge is the summer of 2012, with most work scheduled for completion when school is out of session.

Mr. Barrick questioned a newspaper article that indicated resurfacing of the bridge is estimated to cost \$1.2 million, while total bridge replacement was estimated to cost \$1.1 million.

Mr. Fry indicated that the Newville community successfully "got the attention of the folks we need to" with regard to the bridge issue, and it is now an interactive process with consistent communication.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that it would cost approximately \$3 million to construct a road to bypass the Laughlin Mill Bridge when traveling from the main campus to Route 233.

**C. Visit From Japanese Educators**

Superintendent Fry indicated that Big Spring welcomed 18 Japanese educators who were interested in observing how Big Spring "does business." The educators studied how the Big Spring School District supports teacher growth and teacher collaboration, as well as how the District uses data to improve instruction.

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

#### C. Visit From Japanese Educators (Continued)

The Pennsylvania Department of Education recommended that the Japanese educators visit Big Spring School District based on strides in the aforementioned areas in recent years.

Television news Channels 27 and 21 reported this story.

#### D. House Bill 2497

Mr. Fry indicated that House Bill 2497 has passed. The bill addresses PSERS reform. Mr. Fry noted that the bill provides firm PSERS contribution percentages for the next three years. Mr. Fry provided the members of the Board of School Directors with a three-page document entitled "Analysis of House Bill 2497." Please refer to the attached document.

#### E. Extracurricular Activities

Mr. Fry indicated that the high school has experienced an "amazing week of activities," including athletic and band achievements, the fall play, and the National Honor Society induction.

Mr. Fry congratulated the high school marching band for placing fifth in the national championships. After performing in the national competition, students returned to Greencastle-Antrim via Deitch buses to perform the halftime show at the football game. Students arrived just ten minutes before the game began. Big Spring's band was the only band to leave the national competition and travel to perform at a football game.

#### F. Mid Penn Athletic Organization

The Mid Penn Athletic Organization has received an application to admit State College in varsity and junior varsity athletics.

Mr. Fry indicated that he is one of three school representatives in the Mid Penn Athletic Organization who has expressed his concern with admitting this school.

Athletic events held at State College would require Big Spring to travel over three mountains, for example, to play a junior high basketball game with six-minute quarters.

A group of athletic directors on the committee have proposed acceptance of the application.

Mr. Barrick questioned whether the negotiation of a place to "meet in the middle" would be possible, and Mr. Fry indicated that the proposal is not written in this manner currently.

Mr. Fry indicated that he made known to the organization his opposition to this proposal.

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**XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**A. Arsenic and Old Lace**

Director Norris commended those involved with an excellent performance of Arsenic and Old Lace.

**B. Happy Thanksgiving!**

Director Gutshall wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

**C. Safe Hunting!**

Director Lopp wish safe hunting to all hunters in the upcoming season.

**D. Veterans Day Activities**

President Wolf indicated he is proud of the student body, including M.C. Joey Brown, for the outstanding Veterans Day activities, especially the flag-changing ceremony. Mr. Wolf noted that 14 alumni veterans returned to participate in the activities.

Mr. Wolf indicated that following the ceremony, the retired flag was burned and the ashes were buried near the flagpole.

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

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Norris to adjourn to Executive Session to address negotiations and personnel issues and not to return to Open Session. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, December 6, 2010**