

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011**

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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 8:00 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; David Gutshall; Richard Norris; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

Kingsley Blasco was absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Steve Smith, High School Principal; Rick Gilliam, Food Service and Transportation Director; Wade Reichelderfer and Nick Hasse, 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 Lopp offered a prayer.

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### IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2011 BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES; THE NOVEMBER 7, 2011 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES; AND THE NOVEMBER 7, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Norris, seconded by Lopp for approval of the November 7, 2011 Buildings and Property Committee Meeting Minutes; the November 7, 2011 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the November 7, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

### V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

#### A. Recognition of Vocational-Technical School Students of the Quarter

Mr. Steven Smith, high school principal, recognized those Vocational-Technical School students who earned "Student of the Quarter" awards for the first quarter of the 2011-2012 school year.

|          |                   |                              |
|----------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Grade 10 | *Amber Boose      | American Studies             |
| Grade 10 | *Taylor Heilman   | American Studies             |
| Grade 10 | *Dakota Kuhn      | American Studies             |
| Grade 10 | *Noah Rife        | American Studies             |
| Grade 10 | *Dylan Sherman    | American Studies             |
| Grade 11 | *Zachary Rhoads   | World Studies                |
| Grade 12 | *David Clouser    | Diesel Technology            |
| Grade 12 | Zack Conners      | Automotive Technology        |
| Grade 12 | *Melissa Cronk    | Advertising Art & Design     |
| Grade 12 | *Jacob Lautsbaugh | Computer Information Systems |
| Grade 12 | Kody Richmond     | Carpentry                    |

\*Indicates those students who were present.

Mr. Smith noted that recently he visited many of the vo-tech shops. Consistently the instructors informed Mr. Smith that Big Spring students are generally the "most respectful, kind, and caring" of the students from any of the 15 schools that participate in the CPAVTS.

Mr. Smith congratulated the students and presented them with certificates of achievement.

President Wolf and Vice President Swanson congratulated the students and presented them with Big Spring School District Excellence in Education award pens.

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### V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

#### B. Recognition of Academic Achievement Awards for the First Quarter

Mr. Steven Smith recognized those students who have earned the academic achievement award for the first quarter for the 2011-2012 school year.

|          |                   |      |
|----------|-------------------|------|
| Grade 9  | *Elizabeth Witmer | 99.4 |
| Grade 10 | *Kylie Brandt     | 98.0 |
| Grade 10 | *Jeremy Witter    | 98.0 |
| Grade 11 | *Blair Bitner     | 99.4 |
| Grade 12 | Paul Roberts      | 98.8 |

\*President Wolf and Vice President Swanson congratulated the students and presented them with Big Spring School District Excellence in Education award pens.

#### C. Student Representatives to the Board Report – Wade Reichelderfer and Nick Hasse

The students offered the following report:

1. On December 5, 2011, FFA students will compete in the following career development events: salesmanship, interview, FFA knowledge, and small gas engines. Delivery of the FFA fundraiser Butter Braids and pies began today, and fruit and pies will be delivered on December 14, 2011. FFA members will compete or participate in the following Farm Show events: window display featuring the stinkbug, "Conservation Garden" landscape display, today's agriculture, mid-winter convention, Farm Show greeters/foundation assistants, and agriscience fair. FFA students are prepared to offer a National Convention report at the December 19, 2011 Board meeting.
2. William Wiser was recognized as WHP AM 580's "Mr. Touchdown." WHP will honor William by providing a pizza party for the football team, cheerleaders, and marching band, a group of approximately 110 students.
3. Big Spring was honored with the Mid Penn Sportsmanship Award for girls' athletics for the fall 2011. The female athletes in field hockey, volleyball, cross country, and golf earned the award for demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship. There are 31 Mid Penn high schools eligible for the award, and Big Spring has earned two of the eight sportsmanship banners since the award has been offered.
4. Winter sports practices began on Friday, November 18, 2011.
5. Several students attended the Pennsylvania Student Council Conference November 11 and 12, 2011.
6. Mr. Feeser was pleased with the four successful performances of Pinocchio on November 11, 12, and 13, 2011.
7. Big Spring High School marching band earned the highest score of the year at the USSBA National Band Championship on Sunday, November 13, 2011, in Annapolis, Maryland. The band placed fifth, and there was one point separating fifth place and first place.

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### V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS (Continued)

#### C. Student Representatives to the Board Report – Wade Reichelderfer and Nick Hasse

8. Dr. Dean Smith organized a trip to New York City on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Students enjoyed breakfast at Kutztown University, a tour of the Museum of Natural History, a bus tour of Manhattan, and the Broadway Show How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. Dr. Smith incorporated educational discussions into each component of the trip.
9. Mr. Balseiro directed 60 musicians on November 18, 2011, at the fall band concert that culminated in a standing ovation.
10. Leadership class is sponsoring color wars for class charities, Donors Choose/Horace Mann, and Stall Day on November 30, 2011.
11. On Tuesday, November 22, 2011, teachers will participate in a staff development day. Teachers will prepare for the November 30, 2011 *High Schools That Work* technical assistance visit. The ninth grade teams will work on common syllabi. Mini sessions will be held on effective teaching strategies. Departments will work on the 2012-2013 course offerings and descriptions.
12. The *High Schools That Work* technical assistance visit will occur on November 30 and December 1 and 2, 2011, during which the 12-member team, including teachers, the Cumberland-Perry director, principals, and high school parents will visit the high school. Every classroom will be visited, and the team will interview teachers, students, counselors, parents, and administrators in an effort to identify effective and promising practices and provide suggestions for increasing student achievement. The information included in the technical assistance visit report would serve as a road map for improvement for the next three to five years.
13. Tempus Club sponsored a brunch for veterans on Thursday, November 10, 2011. Approximately 35 veterans and spouses attended the event. In addition, the club sponsored a wreath-changing ceremony on Friday, November 11, 2011. The original wreath had rested at the Shughart/veterans memorial flagpole site for one year, despite wind, considerable snow, and daily school life. Tempus plans to conduct these two events annually. The students offered a video presentation of the high school activities to honor veterans.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

### VI. TREASURER'S REPORT (Balances as of October 31, 2011)

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| General Fund          | \$ 18,434,052.34 |
| Cafeteria Fund        | \$ 333,310.37    |
| Student Activity Fund | \$ 210,646.92    |
| Capital Projects      | \$ 3,127,689.65  |
| Newville Projects     | \$ 749,726.95    |

The Treasurer's Report showed balances as outlined above as of September 30, 2011. Motion by Lopp, seconded by Norris for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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### **VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

|                    |                        |   |
|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| General Fund       | \$ 1,016,239.44        | Checks #64173-64321, 11101105, and D0000038 |
| Cafeteria Fund     | \$ 119,412.28          | Checks #5515-5532                           |
| Miscellaneous Fund | \$ 9,202.99            | Checks #12938-12959                         |
| Capital Projects   | \$ 91,723.64           | Checks #605-609                             |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>\$ 1,236,578.35</b> |   |

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

### **VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no reading of correspondence.

### **IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Kris Beck, Blair Bitner, Karen Bitner, Amber Boose, Brandi Boose, Michelle Boose, Michelle Boose, Ron Boose, Donna Boudier, Dorothy Boudier, Kylie Brandt, Suzette Brandt, Lynzey Cawyer, Melissa Ceronic, David Clouser, Rod Clouser, Tiff Clouser, Jennifer Connors, Elise Eddy, Julie Eddy, Alicia Ferguson, Brian Ferguson, Joel Heilman, Taylor Heilman, Michael Hippensteel, Dakota Kuhn, Doug Kuhn, Lori Kuhn, Doug Lautsbaugh, Jacob Lautsbaugh, Robin Lautsbaugh, Deb Lyndi, Deb Lyndi, Earl Lyndi, Jennifer Maunaiel, Karen Myers, Kim Neidlinger, Jason Rhoads, Zach Rhoads, Bob Rife, Deb Rife, Noah Rife, Dylan Sherman, Elizabeth Witmer, Lori Witmer, Jeremy Witter, and Laura Witter.

### **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.

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**(NOTE: The Board addressed  
XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-7,  
following Item A-7.)**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

- 1. Mr. Rick Stokes** submitted his letter of resignation as high school golf coach, effective immediately.

A copy of Mr. Stokes' letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Stokes' resignation as High School Golf Coach, effective immediately.

- 2. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teacher**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**Stephanie Miller      Elementary K-6/Mid-Level Math  
7-9**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the addition listed to the 2011-2012 per diem substitute teacher list as presented.

- 3. 2011-2012 Lifeguard's**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**Ursus Fedin  
Libby Hurley  
Kelsey McKillip**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the individuals listed to serve as lifeguards during the 2011-2012 school year, pending receipt of all required paperwork.

- 4. Part-Time Learning Support Aide**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a part-time learning support aide at Oak Flat Elementary School for the 2011-2012 school year, replacing Deb Kelley who has resigned.

**Mrs. Ingrid Siwy**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Mrs. Siwy as a part-time learning support aide at Oak Flat Elementary School for the 2011-2012 school year.

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### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

##### 5. 2011-2012 Additional Bus Driver for Deitch Busing (ACTION ITEM) Ms. Jill Brown

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors acknowledge the addition of Ms. Brown as a bus driver for the 2011-2012 school year, pending all required paperwork.

##### 6. Alyssa Webster (ACTION ITEM) Shippensburg, PA 17257 Long-Term Substitute Middle School Eighth Grade Math Teacher (replacing Mrs. Lehman, who will be on child-rearing leave of absence)

##### Education:

Shippensburg University – Mathematics Education (Bachelor's Degree)

##### Experience:

Chambersburg School District – Student Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Webster to serve as a Long-Term Substitute Eighth Grade Middle School Math Teacher, retroactive to November 10, 2011 through the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year, replacing Mrs. Lehman who will be on child-rearing leave of absence. Ms. Webster's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, step 1, \$41,551.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

##### 7. Volunteer Coaches (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director would like to recommend the individuals listed as volunteer swimming/diving coaches for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Amanda Martin**  
**Ronna Stover**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the recommendation of the individuals listed as volunteer swimming/diving coaches for the 2011-2012 school year.

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

Motion by Norris, seconded by Lopp to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-7, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **B. Financial Audit for 2010-2011**

**(INFORMATION ITEM)**

Mr. James Lyons from Greenawalt & Company presented the District's 2010-2011 financial audit report at this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting. Board members received copies of the report with this evening's Board agenda information. At the next meeting of the Board of School Directors, the administration anticipates placing an action item on the agenda for acceptance of the financial audit report.

#### **C. 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 are included with the agenda.

President Wolf noted that the earned income tax collection is coming in slower than last year at this time, and added that it is his hope that this trend changes.

### **XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

There were no future Board agenda items.

### **XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp**

Please refer to this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes.

#### **B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson**

Please refer to this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes.

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

Please refer to this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes.

#### **D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.



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### **XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**

#### **E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco**

Please refer to this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes.

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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

Please refer to this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes.

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

Please refer to this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes.

### **XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **A. Staff Day Tuesday, November 22, 2011**

Mr. Fry reported that parent/teacher conferences would be held at the middle school and elementary schools on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, and high school teachers will have an in-service session that day.

The District is closed on Wednesday, November 23, 2011.

#### **B. Legislative Redistricting**

Superintendent Fry explained the redistricting proposal that would impact significantly Big Spring School District. Under the proposal, legislative representation would increase from one State Senator and one State Representative to two State Senators and three State Representatives. In effect, residents of the Big Spring School District would have little or no impact on the election process, and the observation is that Big Spring's voice would not be heard on legislative issues affecting this rural community. Conceivably, it could take a constituent an hour of travel time to meet with a representative in person.

Mr. Fry indicated that the District has until November 30, 2011, to send written comments to the redistricting committee.

A joint statement from municipalities in this area is being prepared to send to the redistricting committee.

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

#### **B. Legislative Redistricting (Continued)**

Mr. Wolf noted that in the current redistricting proposal, some representatives would be unable to travel on paved roads from one end of the proposed new district to the other end of the districts.

All Board members were in agreement to draft a letter to send to the redistricting committee stating opposition to the proposed redistricting.

#### **C. Thank you, Director Lopp!**

Mr. Fry thanked Director Lopp for her eight years of voluntary service to the Big Spring School District as a member of the Board of School Directors. Mr. Fry presented Mrs. Lopp with a token of appreciation from the Board and administration.

#### **D. Thank you, Director Swanson and Director Piper!**

Mr. Fry noted that Director Swanson has served on the Big Spring School Board for eight years, and Director Piper has served for twelve years. Both Board members were recently elected to serve four-year terms.

Mr. Fry added that Board reorganization would occur at the December 5, 2011 Board meeting.

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

#### **A. Farewell from Director Lopp**

Director Lopp indicated that the past eight years have been an interesting learning experience. Mrs. Lopp noted that she appreciates the fact that the Big Spring School Board members are mature enough and have sufficient respect to agree to disagree with one another on issues without "going ballistic on one another."

Mrs. Lopp added that she is hopeful that the members of the Board of School Directors continue to keep the students' interests at forefront of all decisions made for the future generations of students.

Mrs. Lopp indicated that it has been a pleasure working with Superintendents William Cowden and Richard Fry, and she noted that she carries a high level of respect for both gentlemen.

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### **XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR (Continued)**

#### **B. Upcoming Celebrations**

Director Barrick wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday. Mr. Barrick added that Wednesday, November 23, 2011, is Pecan Day.

#### **C. Board Reorganization**

President Wolf announced at the Board reorganization meeting would be held on December 5, 2011. Mr. Wolf encouraged Board members to consider on which committees they would like to serve and provide that information to Mr. Wolf or Mr. Fry prior to the next Board meeting.

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

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

### **XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, December 5, 2011**