

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

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 8:21 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Eight (8) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; John McCrea; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

Richard Norris 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; Rick Gilliam, Food Service and Transportation Director; and Brenda Line, 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 Piper offered a prayer

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

IV. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2011 BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES; DECEMBER 5, 2011 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE DECEMBER 5, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Piper, seconded by Roush for approval of the December 5, 2011 Buildings and Property Committee meeting minutes; December 5, 2011 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes and the December 5, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS – Wade Reichelderfer Nick Hasse

The students offered the following report:

- A.** Midyear MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) are underway in all math, English, and science classes. With PSSAs just three months away, results for juniors will be used to determine students' math and reading PSSA preparation clubs and to identify "on the bubble" students who will be encouraged to work on Study Island units. Incentives are offered to encourage students to complete Study Island units. Selected students are required to take particular math classes based on their prior test scores.
- B.** Last week the junior class met with Mr. Smith as part of their PSSA preparation kickoff. The junior class has PSSA math and reading proficiency goals of 65 percent. If the class achieves that proficiency goal, it would be the highest 11th grade PSSA proficiency rates to date for Big Spring.
- C.** On Thursday, December 15, 2011, Mrs. Creps conducted a PSAT results night for sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT in October. Parents were invited to the meeting. Test booklets, including the correct answers to test questions, were presented to all students. Mrs. Creps reviewed the interpretation of PSAT scores and offered tools for improving SAT scores available on the College Board website. The parents of approximately 60 students attended the informational meeting.
- D.** On December 5, 2011, Big Spring's FFA chapter competed in an area competition with all FFAs from Cumberland, Perry, and Dauphin Counties. Big Spring individuals and teams performed well, including the following: Teams placed eighth and second place in the Agricultural Sales Contest; the FFA Knowledge Contest Team earned fifth place; the Small Gas Engines Team finished in third place.
- E.** CenturyLink and *The Sentinel* recognized its annual Leaders of Tomorrow with a dinner. Of the 91 students honored from 15 area high schools, 7 were Big Spring students, including Sarah Baum, Logan Dennison, Andrew Fry, Kelsey Hurley, Heather Lay, Shane Moomaw, and Anna Remeikis. Sophomore Logan Dennison was one of ten finalists recognized for his numerous volunteer endeavors in the Big Spring community.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

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

- F.** Five of our eight students who auditioned for District Band were selected, including Caelan Shirey, Michael Daniel, Tommy Pastor, Clayton McKee, and Jesse Valencia.
- G.** Sixty-three students in Big Spring High School's choral groups offered stellar performances last week in the annual holiday choral concert, including the Concert Choir, Cantabile, Big Spring's representatives in the Cumberland County Chorus, and the Brass Quintet.
- H.** The Art Club painted beautiful holiday scenes on the windows at Saylor's Market, Green Ridge Village, and the high school.
- I.** Student Council members served and enjoyed lunch with 50 senior citizens from the Newville area on Wednesday afternoon, December 14, 2011.
- J.** Ninety-eight families benefited from the National Honor Society's Star Tree and food drive. Forty-four meal packages and seventy-seven gift packages were distributed.
- K.** On Thursday, December 22, 2011, Mrs. Mains will conduct the annual college forum for interested students during fourth period. Mrs. Mains has invited Class of 2011 graduates to speak to current Big Spring students about their first-year experiences in college and in the military.
- L.** Over the weekend, the wrestling team finished first of 16 teams at the Carlisle Holiday Wrestling Tournament. The competition cheerleading squad competed in the District 3 championship meet.
- M.** Big Spring will host two athletic invitational events over the winter holiday: The Bulldog Bash swimming invitational will include 18 teams and will be held on Wednesday, December 28, 2011, starting at 10:00 A.M. The Big Spring Children's Miracle Network Holiday Basketball Classic will be held on Thursday and Friday, December 29 and 30, 2011. There will be a JV and varsity tournament including teams from Mount Calvary Christian, Mechanicsburg, Northern York, and Big Spring.
- N.** The first-semester exams will be administered on January 11, 12, and 13, 2012.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT (Balances as of November 30, 2011)

General Fund	\$ 17,434,627.43
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 336,571.16
Student Activity Fund	\$ 237,380.49
Capital Projects	\$ 3,028,661.21
Newville Projects	\$ 675,140.83

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

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	\$ 930,826.94	Checks #64438-64568 and Checks #11301101, 1131103, 12021101
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 110,382.91	Checks #5533-5549
Miscellaneous Fund	\$ 26,873.51	Checks #12982-13025
Capital Projects	\$ 2,007.49	Checks #612-614
Newville Projects	\$ 42,617.20	Check #196
Total	\$ 1,112,708.05	

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

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Charlene D'Amore, Sue Drawbaugh, Georgia Hasse, Pam Hosler, Julie Kurtz, Amy Martin, Josh Petty, Natalie Petty, Barbara Stank.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- A. **Mr. Josh Petty**, 17 Stamy Road, Newville, Pennsylvania, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and thanked the Board for allowing him to speak this evening. Mr. Petty outlined his concerns related to the atmosphere in his son's seventh-grade math classroom. Mr. Petty read a prepared statement outlining his concerns in detail. Please refer to the attached document.

Mr. Petty noted that he audited the math class and observed firsthand what he described as a chaotic atmosphere that is not conducive to learning. Mr. Petty asked that the Board hold teachers accountable and "take the necessary steps to protect our kids and their education." Mr. Petty added that he believes this teacher needs instruction on managing a classroom, and he noted that, in his opinion, poor classroom management affects negatively students who are in school to learn.

President Wolf thanked Mr. Petty for calling this matter to the attention of the members of the Board of School Directors.

- B. **Mrs. Susan Drawbaugh**, 61 East Main Street, Newville, Pennsylvania, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors reiterating concerns outlined by Mr. Petty regarding the atmosphere in a seventh-grade math classroom. Mrs. Drawbaugh noted that the chaotic atmosphere is an unfortunate situation for the students.

President Wolf thanked Mrs. Drawbaugh for noting her concerns.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)

- C. **Mrs. Pam Hosler**, 691 Mount Rock Road, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors regarding concerns related to the atmosphere in her child's seventh-grade math classroom. Mrs. Hosler noted that she has hired a tutor to help her daughter succeed in this class; however, she noted that she has concerns for the future academic performance of students in that classroom as they are promoted to eighth grade.

President Wolf thanked Mrs. Hosler for noting her concerns.

- D. **Mrs. Amy Martin**, 339 Bobcat Road, Newville, Pennsylvania, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors regarding concerns related to the atmosphere in her daughter's seventh-grade math classroom. Mrs. Martin outlined concerns related to her daughter's high math homework scores, low math test scores, and near-failing report card grade. Mrs. Martin noted that her daughter earns As and Bs in her other classes.

Mrs. Martin reported that she has met with the math teacher and school administrators regarding her concerns; however, little has changed with regard to her daughter's math education. Mrs. Martin suggested that teachers should be held accountable for their actions in the classroom.

President Wolf requested that Superintendent Fry investigate this issue and report to the Board at the January 16, 2012 Board meeting regarding what sort of action is being taken to address the concerns described by parents this evening.

Mr. Fry indicated that he would investigate this issue and report to the Board.

- E. **Ms. Julie Kurtz**, 14 Center Road, Newville, Pennsylvania, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors regarding concerns related to the atmosphere in her daughter's seventh-grade math classroom. Ms. Kurtz noted that her daughter has never experienced a problem with learning in any classroom until this year in this math class.

President Wolf thanked the parents who attended this evening's meeting to express concerns regarding educational issues.

XI. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No structured public comment was offered.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

(NOTE: The Board addressed
XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS,
Items A-1 through A-5 and Items A-7 and A-9, following Item A-9.)

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

1. **Ms. Tonya Armolt** submitted her letter of resignation as middle school instructional aide, effective immediately.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Armolt's resignation as Middle School instructional aide, effective immediately.

2. **Additional Per Diem Substitute Teacher**

(ACTION ITEM)

Courtney Lobaugh	Elementary Education
Kristee Sherman	Elementary Education
Dayne Shanon	Elementary Education

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

3. **Substitute School Nurse**

(ACTION ITEM)

Carol Steele

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the individual listed to serve as substitute school nurse for the 2011-2012 school year, pending receipt of all required paperwork.

4. **Cafeteria Worker**

(ACTION ITEM)

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a part-time cafeteria worker at the High School for the 2011-2012 school year.

Edward Sawka

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Edward Sawka as a part-time cafeteria worker at the high school for the 2011-2012 school year.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

5. **Mr. Scott Penner** sixth grade social studies teacher, requested one day of leave without pay, for December 20, 2011.

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 Mr. Penner's request for one day leave without pay as presented.

6. **NOTE: This item was withdrawn from consideration.**

7. Health Room Assistant

(ACTION ITEM)

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a Health Room Assistant at Mt. Rock Elementary School one day per week.

Gretchen Horst

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Gretchen Horst as a Health Room Assistant at Mt. Rock Elementary School one day per week as presented.

8. Volunteer Coach

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director, recommended the individual listed as volunteer swimming coach for the 2011-2012 school year.

Seth Stover

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the recommendation of the individual listed as a volunteer swimming coach for the 2011-2012 school year, pending all required paperwork.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Piper to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Abstaining: McCrea. Total Yes votes: Seven (7). Total Abstentions: One (1). Motion carried by a majority vote.

(NOTE: The members of the Board of School Directors addressed XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Item B, at this time.)

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

9. **Ms. Brianna Vandebord** submitted her letter of resignation as a classroom aide at Oak Flat Elementary School, effective immediately.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Vandebord's resignation as a classroom aide, effective immediately.

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

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Roush to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-5 and Items A-7 and A-9, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

(NOTE: The members of the Board of School Directors addressed XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Item 8, at this time.)

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Credit Pay

(ACTION ITEM)

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.

Lori Shover	\$1,161.00
Richard W. Fry	\$1,000.00
Rachel Myers	\$1,200.00
Brandie Shatto	<u>\$1,236.00</u>
Total	\$4,597.00

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 Blasco, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Credit Pay (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

Director McCrea requested information regarding the graduate work that has been completed that would entitle an individual to extra pay.

Mr. Fry indicated that he could provide this additional information if it is the wish of the Board.

In response to a question from Director McCrea, Mr. Fry indicated that individuals' graduate classes are approved by the Superintendent, and he added that they are courses taken towards master's degrees or as part of Pennsylvania's 24 credit hour post-baccalaureate requirement.

Roll call vote on the motion by Blasco and second by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Proposed Updated Job Descriptions

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent, made revisions to the job descriptions listed below. A copy of the job descriptions was included with the agenda.

**High School Head Custodian
Building Head Custodian
Custodial Personnel
Groundsman**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the updated job descriptions as presented

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

D. Case A of 2011-2012

(ACTION ITEM)

The parents of the student in Case A of the 2011-2012 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 A of the 2011-2012 school year for a period of forty-five (45) days, reduced to thirty (30) school days. The student's return will be predicated upon completion of the Student Assistance Team process. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted on school property at any time for any reason.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

D. Case A of 2011-2012 (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

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

E. Additional 2011-2012 School Police Officers

(ACTION ITEM)

Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director, submitted a list of additional names to be recommended as school police officers for the 2011-2012 school term.

A copy of the list was included with the agenda for Board review.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additional 2011-2012 school police roster as presented. In turn, the administration will take the necessary steps to ensure that Big Spring's 2011-2012 additional school police officers' are approved by Cumberland County Court.

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

F. Golf Course

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director, requested that Eagles Crossing Golf Course host the Big Spring Golf Team for the 2012 golf season.

Information was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Hockenbroch's request to have Eagles Crossing Golf Course host the Big Spring Golf Team for the 2012 golf season.

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

G. Additional Post-Graduation Party Fundraisers

(ACTION ITEM)

The Post-Graduation Party Committee requested permission from the Board of School Directors to conduct the additional fundraisers listed during the 2011-2012 school year.

**Sheetz Coupon Booklets
Warrington Farm Meat Products**

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

G. Additional Post-Graduation Party Fundraisers (Continued) (ACTION ITEM)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the Post-Graduation Party Committee to conduct the fundraisers listed during the 2011-2012 school year.

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

H. Approval of Intent to Not Raise Real Estate Taxes Above the Adjusted Index (ACTION ITEM)

After review with the Finance Committee, the preliminary budget is \$41,688,868 with expected revenue of \$41,187,828. This leaves \$501,040 of missing revenue that will come from general fund balance unless appropriate cuts are made in personnel, programs, supplies, or services. The District could request estimated exceptions of \$607,899 for special education and PSERS contributions; however, the administration and Finance Committee recommend staying within the index. In lieu of a preliminary budget process, school districts have the option of adopting a resolution indicating that the rate of any tax will not be raised by more than its index.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve by resolution the intent to not raise real estate taxes by more than the adjusted index of 2.2%, as defined by Act 1 of 2006, for the 2012-2013 year.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

Mr. Fry explained that this is a starting point for the budget process. With the Board approval of this recommendation, the real estate tax mill increase cannot exceed 2.2 percent; however, the Board could approve a mill increase below 2.2 percent for the final budget. Approving this item would set in motion a "typical" budget process with tentative budget adoption in May and final budget adoption in June 2012.

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Fry indicated that, with this motion, the Board is forfeiting any exceptions, including PSERS and special education exceptions.

Roll call vote on the motion by Blasco and second by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

I. Approval of Radio Purchase

(ACTION ITEM)

As previously discussed with the Board, the administration has prepared a proposal to replace cell phones with two-way radio. A summary of the cost was included with the Board packet. The advantages of this plan are: 1) Ensure reliable communication throughout all buildings and bus routes, 2) Cut the use of cell phone use while driving, 3) Future cost avoidance of cell service in support of budget reductions.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the purchase of two-way radios in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 with payment made from the general fund budget reserve account.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Blasco to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

Please refer to the November 7, 2011 Buildings and Property Committee meeting minutes, II. Discussion Items, Item E., Pages 4 and 5, for details regarding the administration's rationale for replacing cellular telephones with two-way radios.

In response to question from Board members, the following items were noted:

1. The District will maintain in service approximately 10 cell phones for personnel use.
2. Two-way radio base units would be located in each office, central office, and Deitch Bus Service.
3. Estimated return on investment is 3.5 to 5 years.
4. Presently the cell phone cost is \$48,000 annually. The two-way radio cost is estimated to be \$15,045 annually. Factoring in other costs associated with the radios, the annual cost avoidance is estimated to be \$10,770.
5. The radios would eliminate the dead spots experienced by cell phones in the District's buildings and many spots throughout the District.
6. Mr. Deitch believes the radios would be an improvement over the cell phones.
7. After regular school hours, the two-way radio base stations are not manned; however, person-to-person calls are still possible.
8. Bus radios would be hardwired to the battery.
9. Mr. Piper reported an experiment he did with cell phones in the high school. The poor cell phone reception throughout the building convinced him that two-way radios are a better communication option.

Roll call vote on the motion by Swanson and second by Blasco to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(INFORMATION ITEM)

J. Request for Proposals for Food Service Management Companies

At the May 16, 2011 Board meeting, the administration was directed to “prepare and release” a request for proposals to contract out Big Spring’s food services. After several visits by the Board and administration to existing FSMC operations, the RFP is complete and available for Board member review at the District office. At the time of release the documents will be available on the District’s website. As a reminder, the key dates are as follows: RFP release, January 3, 2012; advertise, January 4, 11, 18, 2012; walk-through, January 19, 2012; proposals due February 15, 2012; Board discussion on February 20, 2012; and a Board decision on March 5 or 20, 2012.

In response to a question from Director McCrea, Mr. Fry indicated that he would provide interested Board members with RFP details upon request.

Mr. Kerr noted that the RFP should be finalized later this week, and he added that he welcomes suggestions for improving the RFP.

K. Planned Course Adoption

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Listed below is a completed planned course for board approval. All completed planned courses are available in the Curriculum Center for review by the Board of School Directors prior to the January 16, 2012 Board of School Directors meeting.

High School – Science Biotechnology

L. 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.

Mr. Kerr reported that earned income tax (EIT) collections are “not keeping pace” with last year, and he added that these are the first of the collections under the Act 32 regulation that mandates that every dollar must have a “name attached, with no estimated collection.”

Mr. Kerr noted that assessed real estate values are “moving target.” Mr. Kerr concluded that as the final budget is prepared, the revenue budget for the EIT and the real estate revenue may require adjustments.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

M. Objection to Big Spring Market Value Determinations (INFORMATION ITEM)

In discussions with our Solicitor and South Middleton School District, the administration believes that we should object to the market value determinations provided by the State Tax Equalization Board. It is our belief the current methodology overstates the District's wealth in formulas used to determine state subsidies. A draft of the objection prepared by the Solicitor and the backup information were included in the packet.

Mr. Fry indicated that the objection was filed with James Zurick at the State Tax Equalization Board on Friday, December 16, 2011.

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.

The next District Improvement Committee meeting is January 19, 2012.

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.

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

Please refer to this evening's Committee of the Whole of the Board meeting minutes, II. PRESENTATIONS, C., Budget.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

President Wolf reported that he would participate in the meetings as the CAIU moves forward with the strategic plan in early January, 2012.

Mr. Fry indicated that as he and Mr. Kerr spend time at the CAIU, they are gaining a better understanding of the more than 70 entrepreneurial budgets that exist outside the organization's General Fund. Mr. Fry added that gaining an understanding of these budgets is critical in these difficult economic times.

Mr. Wolf noted that the thrust of the CAIU strategic plan is to come up with "reasonable answers" to determine the future of the CAIU as far as whether the group would become a "PDE arm" or exactly what its function would be.

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. State House and Senate Update

Superintendent Fry reported that the proposed realignment of the Federal House and Senate boundaries passed the State Senate recently. The proposal is slated to be addressed by the House soon.

Mr. Fry commended the Board for communicating concerns related to the realignment.

In response to a question from Director Piper, Mr. Fry indicated that the realignment would mean that two different State House Representatives would serve residents of Big Spring School District.

B. January 2012 Board meeting

Mr. Fry reminded the Board that there would be just one January Board meeting scheduled for January 16, 2012.

C. Happy Holidays!

Mr. Fry wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Season's Greetings!

Director Barrick wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

B. Capital Tax Collection Bureau Nonfilers

Director McCrea indicated that he has learned that the Capital Tax Collection Bureau filed between 1,600 and 1,700 criminal cases for 2009 for nonfilers of earned income tax. 476 of those Big Spring School District nonfilers were processed through District Justice Vivian Cohick's office. An unknown number of Big Spring residents' cases were processed through District Justice Paula Correal's office.

Mr. McCrea indicated that he has learned that Capital Tax Collection Bureau would be charging a collection fee of \$80.00 for each case. Mr. McCrea questioned whether there was a Board policy decision to agree to \$80.00 as a reasonable collection fee. Mr. McCrea noted that, in his opinion, this fee is "way out of sync" for what would normally be required to collect that kind of money.

President Wolf responded that the collection fee decision was made by the Capital Tax Collection Bureau Board as a group.

Mr. McCrea calculated that, if the Capital Tax Collection Bureau were to win all 1,600 criminal cases, it would collect a \$128,400 windfall; and he added that Capital Tax Collection Bureau is "already getting paid to collect the tax and should not get paid an extra sum because they have to go to the District Justice level to collect."

President Wolf indicated that it is his understanding that in the past the collection fees would go into the Capital Tax Collection Bureau total revenues and that any monies remaining after collection expenses were paid would be distributed to members of the Capital Tax Collection Bureau.

Mr. McCrea indicated that he had heard a different distribution explanation from Capital Tax Collection Bureau.

Mr. Wolf noted that the collection fees would become part of the Capital Tax Collection Bureau revenue stream; however, in compilation of the final activity, that revenue stream is compared against the expense stream. The monies are then to be given to districts and municipalities on a proportional basis, depending on how much earned income tax is paid to a particular district.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, December 19, 2011

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR (Continued)

B. Capital Tax Collection Bureau Nonfilers (Continued)

Mr. Wolf added that this system would be changing in the future because, as of January 2012, Capital Tax Collection Bureau is no longer the earned income tax collector for Big Spring School District. However, Capital Tax Collection Bureau would continue to collect delinquent earned income taxes for Big Spring residents.

In response to a question from Director Piper, Mr. Fry indicated that Big Spring is fighting for a share in the Capital Tax Collection Bureau equity that has accumulated over the years that Big Spring was a member of the Capital Tax Collection Bureau.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Blasco to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel and legal issues and not to return to Open Session. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, McCrea, Piper, Roush, Gutshall, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, January 16, 2012