



Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Board Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 3, 2022

08:00 PM - Middle School Auditorium

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.

1. Opening Meeting: Call to Order/Pledge - President Bill Swanson

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 8:11 pm with nine (9) Board of School Directors present: William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Richard Roush, John Wardle, and Donna Webster

Absent: No Absences

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent; Bill August, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Chris Harris, Solicitor; Donna Minnich, Board Minutes; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; and Darrin Baughman, Technology Support.

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

President Swanson announced the Board met in Executive Session on October 3, 2022 prior to tonight's meeting to discuss legal matters pertaining to the pending lawsuits of Flynn and Reinford vs. Big Spring School District filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and Flynn and Reinford vs. Big Spring School District filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Cumberland County Pennsylvania. He stated the Board also met in Executive Session on October 3, 2022 to discuss a personnel matter of the evaluation of our Superintendent, Dr. Roberts.

2. Student/Staff Recognition and Board Reports – Sammi Feldman and Cailin Spies provided a student activity report and updates to the Board.

Jocelyn Kraus and Ed Wilson, High School BSEA Representatives, provided staff recognition and updates to the Board.

3. Reading of Correspondence - [Letter of Compliance from the Department of Education](#)

4. Recognition of Visitors - 22 visitors signed-in for the meeting

President Swanson announced he advised Dr. Roberts to work with the solicitor to update Policy 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings to remove the phrase adult resident and change any student attending Big Spring School District to any student in Big Spring School District.

5. Public Comment Period

Pastor Bill Beck offered a prayer of encouragement for the Board members, administration, staff, students, and community.

Arlene Reinford offered comments about following the law and making sure students are educated properly.

Haley Reinford offered comments about lawsuits, legal fees, and PSSA test scores.

Charlotte McDonald offered comments on the Sunshine Law and Right to Know requests.

Torrey Reinford offered comments about truth and following the law.

Chuch Burns offered comments on Right To Know costs and the importance of reviewing the content of books.

6. Approval of Minutes

6.a. Regular Board Meeting and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2022

[Sept. 19, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes](#)

[Sept. 19, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

7. Financial Reports

7.a. Payment of Bills

General Fund

Procurement Card	\$	29,229.19
Checks/ACH/Wires	\$	4,366,678.29
Capital Projects Reserve Fund	\$	-
Cafeteria Fund	\$	-
Student Activities	\$	<u>32,625.66</u>
Total	\$	4,428,533.14

Motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented.

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Deihl

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

8. Old Business – Nothing Offered

9. New Business

10. Personnel Items - Actions Items

10.a. Recommended Approval of Staff Resignations

Administration received the following staff resignations:

- William August has provided a letter of resignation from the position of Assistant Superintendent.
- Caleb Barwin has provided a letter of resignation from the position of Accounting Controller effective October 7, 2022.
- Heather Nenninger has provided a letter of resignation from the position of Special Education Teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the resignations as presented.

10.b. Recommended Approval for Child Rearing Leave

Madison Sloop, Administrative Assistant for Public Information, Reception, and Registration, is requesting a child-rearing leave of absence to begin approximately Friday, January 6, 2023 through approximately Friday, March 3, 2023 with a return date of Monday, March 6, 2023.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the child-rearing leave of absence as presented.

10.c. Recommended Approval of 2022-2023 Elementary Water Safety Interns

Mr. Matthew Kump, Aquatic Director, recommends the following students as Elementary Water Safety Interns for the Aquatic Program:

- Ayla Davis
- Nick Egger
- Russell (Ray) Gutshall
- Ava Lay
- Jessica Lewis
- Aliyah March
- Rachel Newsanger
- Emily Willinsky

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve student interns for the Aquatic Program at a rate of \$10.94 per hour based on the Classified Employee Agreement for 2022-2023 as presented.

10.d. Recommended Approval of Professional Extra-Curricular Personnel

A list of the 2022-2023 extra-curricular positions and recommended personnel has been prepared by Stacy Lehman, Human Resources Coordinator. The 2022-2023 salaries established for these positions are based on the current contract between the Big Spring Association and the Big Spring School District.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the 2022-2023 extra-curricular personnel as presented.

10.e. Recommended Approval of Musical Director

Mr. Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, would like to recommend a Musical Director and vacate all supporting musical positions:

- Christian Witmer for the position of High School Musical Director for 2022-2023

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the Musical Director and vacate all supporting musical positions as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Wardle to combine New Business Personnel Items 10 (a) through 10 (e) into one motion

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

11. New Business - Actions Items

11.a. Approval of the Proposed Big Spring School District Comprehensive Plan

Mr. William August, Assistant Superintendent, would like to recommend the Comprehensive Plan through June 30, 2024 for Board approval. The Comprehensive Plan was included on the September 6 and September 19, 2022 Board Meeting Agendas as an information item.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the Comprehensive Plan as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

11.b. Agreements 2022-2023

The River Rock Academy, LLC Contracts for the Newville and Carlisle Campuses for 2022-2023 have been reviewed by Mr. William Gillet, Director of Student Services.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the agreements as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

11.c. Recommended Approval of Fundraisers

Mr. Jason Shover, High School Principal, is requesting permission to conduct a Paint Wars Mini-THON Fundraiser on Friday, October 14, 2022 prior to the football game to benefit Four Diamonds. [Fund Raiser Request](#)

Ms. Jordan Robinson, High School Art Club and National Art Society Advisor, is requesting permission to conduct a Terri Lynn Fundraiser from October 17 through November 4, 2022 with product delivery the week of December 5. [Terri Lynn Product Catalog](#)

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the fundraisers as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

11.d. Case A

The parent of Case A of the 2022-2023 school year waived their right to a formal student discipline hearing before the Board of School Directors. The student will be excluded for 25 days pending completion of the Student Assistance Program which may reduce the 25 day exclusion by 15 days to a 10 day exclusion. During the period of exclusion, the student is not permitted to attend or participate in any school activities nor appear on school property at any time for any reason without direct approval from the high school principal.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors exclude the student in Case A of the 2022-2023 school year as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

11.e. Request to Apply for a Grant

Mrs. Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, has received a request from the following teacher to apply for a grant:

- Jenna McIntire, Middle School Agriculture/Technology Education Teacher, is requesting permission to apply for the [Walmart Local Community Grant](#).

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the request to apply for and participate in the grant as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

12. New Business - Information Item

12.a. ESS Staff Resignation

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Supervisor of Ancillary Services, received a letter of resignation from an ESS staff member:

- Holly Jones-Michaels has provided a letter of resignation from the position of High School Paraprofessional effective October 7, 2022.
- Michael Rudisill has provided a letter of resignation from the position of Oak Flat Elementary School Aide effective October 7, 2022.

12.b. Long-Term Substitute through ESS the District's Substitute Agency

Mr. William August, Assistant Superintendent, recommends the following candidate to serve as a long-term substitute teacher:

- Samantha Reasey to serve as long-term substitute Special Education Teacher at the Middle School during Meghan Bullock's leave.

13. Discussion Item – Nothing offered

14. Board Reports

14.a. District Improvement Committee - Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Webster – Mr. Fisher stated they have not met yet but will be meeting soon.

14.b. Athletic Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Myers, and Mr. Wardle – Mr. Deihl stated they will be meeting at 7:00 am on Thursday.

14.c. Cumberland Perry Area Career and Technical Center - Mr. Piper and Mr. Wardle – Mr. Piper shared meeting updates with the Board highlighting a student presentation by Big Spring junior, Alenna Dingman, who shared her masonry experiences and skill development through Cumberland Perry.

Mr. Wardle stated the Joint Operations Committee is considering a substantial building project to better meet the needs of students to provide more opportunities and will share more information with the Board as that process moves forward.

14.d. Building and Property Committee - Mr. Over, Mr. Piper, Mr. Roush, and Mr. Wardle – Nothing offered

14.e. Finance Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Over, Mr. Piper, and Mr. Myers – Nothing offered

14.f. South Central Trust - Mr. Deihl – Nothing offered

14.g. Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Mr. Swanson - [All In September 2022](#)

Mr. Swanson stated they met last Thursday and the minutes were included in Board member packets.

14.h. Tax Collection Committee - Mr. Swanson - Mr. Statler said they will be meeting on October 18 to discuss the 2023 budget and bond and approve the 2021 financial statements.

14.i. Future Board Agenda Items – Nothing Offered

14.j. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Roberts said in response to some of the comments, I try to always offer the opportunity to have further discussions and would be willing to talk with anyone at any time about the achievements of our students. The Keystones and PSSA tests are one measure but I would be willing to speak about AIMSWEB, NOCTI, classroom diagnostic tools and any of the other measures that we use including IReady and MAP. He stated, I would be more than happy to sit down and show how we consistently perform above state averages and in the case of the NOCTI's, our students are performing at an advanced or proficient rate that is better than the rest of the state.

Dr. Roberts shared this weekend was Homecoming Weekend for our students. We hosted Trinity here on Friday for football. Unfortunately, the scoreboard didn't reflect what we were aiming for, but in spite of having multiple players injured/out, we played well as a team. He said the Homecoming Dance went well on Saturday evening and the students had a great time.

Dr. Roberts stated our District enrollment is currently at 2427 students. We continue to hover around the PDE enrollment projections with PDE projecting enrollment to be 2466 students. We have 124 students attending Cumberland Perry Area Career and Technical Center and 47 attending our cyber academy. There are 161 students attending outside cyber schools and we're continuing our recruiting efforts to have them return to Big Spring. That number is slightly down from where we finished the school year.

Superintendent's Report (continued)

Dr. Roberts said lastly, while we knew that Mr. August's resignation was coming with his selection as the Superintendent of Schools for the Shippensburg Area School District, I wanted to take a moment this evening to thank him for his nearly three decades of outstanding service to the Big Spring School District. I have had the distinct privilege of working with Mr. August for nearly 20 years and what I find to be most impressive about him are his core values, dedication to the school district, and commitment to each and every student. It's always difficult to see talent walk out the door, but to those listening from Shippensburg, you got it right. Dr. Roberts ended by saying best of luck to Mr. August in this next step in his journey. We'll be ironing out the transition over the coming weeks and will start our search for his successor.

15. Meeting Closing

15.a. Business from the Floor/Board Member Comment

Mr. Wardle stated, we approved the resignation of Mr. August as our Assistant Superintendent which we usually think of as a loss but I don't see it that way Mr. August. Your job has been to influence others and you have been the High School principal for over 6 years and have been involved with the District for over 30 and made tough decisions while being caring and having a compassionate side show through. You strived to make a difference in the lives of our students each day and had an impact on our community. You had all of my children in the schools and were like a parent and a role model to all students. We are a rural school district and so is Shippensburg so I don't know if you're moving on to greener pastures but you're going to a neighboring pasture and have a unique opportunity to work together with Big Spring, Shippensburg, and Shippensburg University to be an educational model for the western side of the state. You could have taken the easy road and stayed until retirement but you challenged yourself and this community to be better. I wish you luck and know you are making the right decision for students and not just yourself and I thank you.

Mr. Over stated he is more convinced now than ever that we have the best teachers, administrators, support staff, and students.

Mr. Fisher said good luck to Mr. August, I hope everything works well for you and thank you for your service.

Mr. Deihl shared a thank you to Mr. August and said we appreciate you.

Mr. Piper said he can't say it any better than Mr. Wardle just did and thanked Mr. August for his service to this District. He also thanked Mr. Wilson and Ms. Kraus for their comments about our great school system.

Mr. Myers, Mr. Roush, and Mrs. Webster thanked Mr. August and stated he will certainly be missed here at Big Spring and wished him luck at Shippensburg.

Meeting Closing (continued)

Mr. Swanson said the Board is presented with all of the information about test scores and it is a lot more complicated than talking about just one category. He stated you have to take into consideration all 4 testing categories which are basic, below basic, proficient, and advanced. He said you're leaving out categories when you just say students are below basic.

Mr. Swanson said he taught and coached with Mr. August and considers him a good personal friend. He stated that Mr. August was an elementary and high school principal and was very successful at every step in his career and will be missed at Big Spring. He ended by saying to Mr. August Shippensburg has students who need your help and we wish you well.

15.b. Comment Future Board Agenda Items – Nothing Offered

15.c. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Myers, Fisher, Over, Roush, Wardle, and Webster

Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Meeting adjourned at **8:56 pm, October 3, 2022**

Next scheduled meeting is **October 17, 2022**


