

Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Board Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2022



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1. Opening Meeting

Call to Order (President Swanson)

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 8:00 pm with eight (8) Board of School Directors present: William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Frank Myers, Richard Roush, and John Wardle.

Absent: Alexis Blasco-Hurley

Others in attendance: Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Donna Minnich, Board Minutes; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; and Darrin Baughman, Technology Support.

Pledge to the Flag

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

Mr. Swanson announced the Board met tonight in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss legal matters.

2. Student/Staff Recognition and Board Reports

3. Reading of Correspondence

3.a. Correspondence from the Pennsylvania Department of Education

Dr. Kevin C. Roberts, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, received correspondence from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Federal Programs Coordinator, Susan McCrone, Division Chief. Ms. McCrone communicates in the correspondence that The Division of Federal Programs has determined that Big Spring School District has maintained fiscal effort when comparing the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. It has been noted in the correspondence that BSSD is eligible for full participation in federal grant funding for the school year 2021-2022.

4. Recognition of Visitors – 23 visitors signed in for the meeting

5. Public Comment Period

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

Charlotte McDonald – offered comments regarding Public Comment Policy 903

Jessica Kreiger – asked Board members about their purpose

Chuch Burns – offered comments regarding the world view of young people and asked the Board to get rid of ESSER

6. Approval of Minutes

6.a. Regular Board Meeting and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2022

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Wardle

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

7. Financial Reports

7.a. Payments of Bills

General Fund

Procurement Card	\$	32,150.07
Checks/ACH/Wires	\$	3,359,913.74
Capital Projects Reserve Fund	\$	-
Cafeteria Fund	\$	232.50
Student Activities	\$	<u>14,630.74</u>
Total	\$	3,406,927.05

Motion to approve the Payments of Bills as presented by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

8. Old Business

9. New Business

10. Personnel Items - Actions Items

10.a. Coaching Staff Updates

Mr. Joseph Sinkovich, Athletic Director, received the following coaching resignations:

- Lance Oburn submitted a letter of resignation from the position of Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach
- Angie Noreika submitted a letter of resignation from the position of Head Field Hockey Coach

10.b. Leave Without Pay Request

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.

- Alison Brown is requesting 1 day of leave without pay for April 13, 2022.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve leave without pay for Alison Brown as presented.

10.c. Recommended Approval for Extended School Year (ESY) Program Staff

Dr. Abigail Leonard, Supervisor of Ancillary Services, would like to recommend the individuals listed for the positions as noted to assist with the Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) Program. The summer ESY Program will operate on Tuesday's, Wednesday's, and Thursdays from June 28 - July 28, 2022 at Oak Flat Elementary School:

- Megan Martin - ESY Special Education Teacher
- Jessica Sprecher - ESY Special Education Teacher
- Amanda Webber - ESY Speech Clinician
- Devyn Heinbaugh - ESY Aide
- Joan Ellis - ESY Aide
- Theresa Stum - ESY Aide
- Tammy Garman - ESY Aide
- Lydia Myers - ESY Aide
- Stacey Sarber - ESY Nurse

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the above individuals to serve as ESY staff for the Summer 2022 ESY Program.

10.d. Recommendation of an Extra Duty Position

Mr. William August, Assistant Superintendent, recommends the following individual for an Extra Duty Position for 2021-2022:

- Amber Rute for the Extra Duty Position of After-School Tutor

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve Amber Rute for an extra duty position for 21-22 as presented.

Vote on New Business 10 a – d, Personnel Items

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Wardle to approve Items a – d as outlined and recommended above

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

11. New Business - Actions Items

11.a. Credit Pay

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.

Tara Barnard	\$1,545.00
Matthew Kump	\$1,650.00

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors authorize reimbursement for graduate credits as outlined above and as provided in the current contract between the Big Spring Educational Association and the Big Spring School District.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

11.b. Recommended Approval for Building Utilization Requests

- Sam Barnouski is requesting to use Oak Flat's baseball field on March 26 and 27 for Big Spring Dawgs baseball. The games on Sunday will begin after 1:00 pm.
- Scott Anderson is requesting to use the High School soccer field #6 from March to June for practice and games on April 10, May 1, May 8, and May 15. The games on Sunday will begin after 1:00 pm.

Because the utilization request is on a Sunday, Board action is necessary. The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the utilization requests as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Fisher, Over, Myers, Wardle, and Roush
Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

11.c. Recommendation for Middle School Fundraiser

The Middle School PTO is requesting permission to conduct a spring fundraiser for the 2021-2022 school year:

- [Country Meats Fundraiser](#) - April 5 through April 21, 2022 with delivery in early May

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the 21-22 Middle School PTO fundraiser as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Fisher, Over, Myers, Wardle, and Roush
Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

11.d. Recommend Approval for a 2021-2022 Bus Driver from Deitch Buses, Inc.

Deitch Buses, Inc., has submitted Dawn Kephart as a new driver for the 2021-2022 school year.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors acknowledge receipt of Dawn Kephart as a new bus driver for Deitch Buses, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Deihl, Piper, Fisher, Over, Myers, Wardle, and Roush
Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

11.e. Proposed Job Description

The administration has developed the job description listed. A copy of the job description is included with the agenda.

219 Distance Learning Coordinator

After the job description has been reviewed by the Board of School Directors and the administration, the administration will present the updated job description for Board approval at the April 19, 2022 Board meeting.

Because this is an Information item, the job description will appear on the April 19, 2022 Agenda for a vote by the Board of School Directors.

11.f. Resignation - Mrs. Alexis Blasco-Hurley

Mrs. Alexis Blasco-Hurley, Upper Mifflin Township Board of School Director, has submitted her resignation as School Board Director effective April 4, 2022.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Blasco-Hurley's resignation as Upper Mifflin Township Board of School Director as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

11.g. Authorization for the Administration to Advertise the Vacant Seat on the Board of School Directors

The administration requests authorization to advertise the vacant seat on the Board of School Directors for Upper Mifflin Township due to the resignation of Mrs. Blasco-Hurley.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

12. New Business - Information Item

12.a. Recommendation for New Curricular Resources

Listed below are curricular resources recommended by Mrs. Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, for board approval at the April 19, 2022 Board Meeting. All resources are available in the Curriculum Center for review by the Board of School Directors.

Resources:

- K-5 Math: Illustrative Math - Publisher Kendall Hunt
- 6-8 Math: Illustrative Math - Publisher Kendall Hunt
- Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry: Illustrative Math - Publisher Kendall Hunt

12.b. Walmart Grant Award to Mrs. Rebecca Whigham's MS Family and Consumer Science Classroom

At the November 15, 2021 Board Meeting, permission was granted for Mrs. Rebecca Whigham, Middle School Family and Consumer Science Teacher, to apply for a Walmart Local Community Grant. A \$1,000.00 grant has been awarded to Mrs. Whigham's Family and Consumer Science Classroom and a Big Spring account has been established for the grant. [Walmart Grant Details](#)

12.c. Closeout of Real Estate Tax Collection

Beth Rhodes has closed out the 2021 Real Estate Taxes and a summary of the collections is attached. The collection rate of 96.42% is higher than the average of 94%.

Totals	\$27,565,243.61
Tax Levy	\$28,618,732.11
Collection %	96.42%
Avg Amt / Bill	\$2,876.60
Total # of bills	9,593

13. Discussion Item – Nothing offered

14. Board Reports

14.a. District Improvement Committee - Mr. Fisher and Mr. Myers - Nothing offered

14.b. Athletic Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Myers, and Mr. Wardle - Nothing offered

14.c. Cumberland Perry Area Career and Technical Center - Mr. Piper and Mr. Wardle

Mr. Piper spoke about the original mission and purpose of Cumberland Perry to train students with skills that individual school districts did not have the ability to offer. He stated Cumberland Perry continues to train and teach skills to students that are dramatically needed in our society. For over a year and a half, the curricular and buildings and grounds committees at CPACTC have met and are working to come up with a plan to meet the needs of students as they look to the future. Mr. Piper asked if anyone in attendance received training from CPACTC and Tailynn Mackey shared her experience as a currently enrolled student in the Dental Assisting Program.

Mr. Wardle stated growth is needed and the facilities are not enough for the future in some of the programs. He said everyone is cautiously working on the best plan to develop growth and meet future needs and shared they are working diligently to use wisely all their resources.

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

14.e. Finance Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mrs. Hurley, Mr. Over, and Mr. Piper - Nothing offered

14.f. South Central Trust - Mr. Deihl

- May 18th - SCT Full Board Meeting @3:00 pm

14.g. Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Mr. Swanson - Mr. Swanson stated there was a meeting last week and contract negotiations are continuing. The next meeting will be April 28 at 8:00 am.

14.h. Tax Collection Committee - Mr. Swanson

- Meeting on April 6th @ 10:00 am.

14.i. Future Board Agenda Items – Nothing offered

14.j. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Roberts shared the monthly enrollment of 2,445 students and highlighted 120 students are enrolled at CPACTC. He also stated 159 students are enrolled in outside cyber charter schools and mentioned the new job description which will provide support to our cyber students and recruit outside cyber charter students to bring them back into the Big Spring fold.

Dr. Roberts stated that senior student, Donavin Lynch, completed everything he needed to become an Eagle Scout and offered a Hat's Off congratulations to Donavin and his family on this major accomplishment.

Dr. Roberts said at the Elementary Level, Genius Hour Projects are coming to fruition. At Newville Elementary, students were involved in 3D printing, making fishing lures from repurposed materials, and others worked to create a reading lounge space within the building. Dr. Roberts reminded everyone the projects are student driven and passion based and stated the staff and kids have done a fantastic job at Newville and all the elementary buildings.

Dr. Roberts reminded everyone that Thursday, April 14 will be a make-up day for students and staff due to the school closure earlier in the school year and April 15 and 18 students and staff will be off for spring break which means the next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, April 19 in the middle school auditorium.

Dr. Roberts extended a thank you to Alexis Blasco-Hurley and all Board Members for their voluntary service and dedication of time to the Big Spring School District.

Dr. Roberts shared the Bulldog Family mourns the loss of Noah Blessing who graduated with the class of 2021 and tragically lost his life on March 24. He was a terrific student who was active in school plays, the drama club, and choir. Dr. Roberts asked that we keep his family in our thoughts and prayers as they work through the healing process and stated there are many great things about our school and community and said one of the best is how we circle around families who need our support in times like these.

15. Meeting Closing

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

Mr. Wardle thanked everyone for their comments and thanked the parents and students for their dedication and efforts. He extended a special thanks to teachers and advisors and stated he is looking forward to graduation.

Mr. Swanson stated that Jessica asked a question about the purpose of Board Members and shared that some of what the Board Members do to keep kids engaged at Big Spring will be shared at the April 19 meeting. Mr. Swanson also responded to Mrs. Burns that Board Members are aware of the tragic number of students who are struggling nationally and said the Board is concerned about these issues and makes an effort to address them for our students. He said he wished that every student would take advantage of and become involved in the many activities and positive opportunities being offered at Big Spring.

15.b. Public Comment Future Board Agenda Items – Nothing offered

15.c. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Wardle

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

Motion Carried unanimously. 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm, **April 4, 2022**

Next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, April 19, 2022 in the Middle School Auditorium**


