

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009

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 8:00 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Six (6) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Sandra Rosenberry Deaver; and Richard Norris. Kingsley Blasco, William Piper, and Richard Roush were absent.

Others in attendance: Richard Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session from 7:46 to 8:00 P.M. to address legal and personnel concerns.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

III. PRAYER

Director Lopp offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AND THE AUGUST 3, 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE AUGUST 3, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Norris, seconded by Lopp for approval of the August 3, 2009 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes and the August 3, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Norris, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Douglas Kennedy and Travis Gilbert

No report was offered.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report is presented at the second Board meeting each month.

The Treasurer's Report showed a General Fund ending cash and investment balance of \$2,441,964.73 as of July 31, 2009; a Cafeteria Fund balance of \$104,217.50 as of July 31, 2009; Capital Reserve Fund investment balance of \$38,106.18 as of July 31, 2009; and a Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund cash balance of \$145,805.79 as of July 31, 2009.

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

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Lopp, seconded by Barrick for approval of General Fund Account checks #54906-55044 totaling \$564,405.33; Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13208-13216 totaling \$3,326.93 and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #322-325 and 10326-10327 totaling \$7,440.37; and Capital Reserve Account checks #541-542 totaling \$106,038.51. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$681,211.14. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Norris, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Samantha Duvall, Steve Fosburg, Heath Myers, Scott Penner, Bethany Stanton, Julie Stine, Jerry Walker.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mrs. Julie Stine, 455 Hunters Road, Newville, PA, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors regarding her child who is enrolled in kindergarten in the Big Spring School District. Mrs. Stine indicated that although she lives in the Newville Elementary School attendance area, her child has been enrolled in Mount Rock Elementary School for kindergarten.

Mrs. Stine indicated that she is concerned about her child missing one-half hour of school in the morning and one-half hour of school in the afternoon when she is transported between Newville Elementary School and Mount Rock Elementary School each morning and afternoon. Mrs. Stine indicated that she is also concerned that her five-year-old child will be required to ride four buses in one day.

Superintendent Fry explained that the Newville Elementary School kindergarten enrollment requires three sections of kindergarten classes, with room at the school for only two sections. One full class of Newville Elementary School students would be transported to Mount Rock Elementary School for kindergarten only.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)

Mrs. Julie Stine (Continued)

Mr. Fry explained that those students who enroll later in the summer at Newville Elementary School, as Ms. Stine's child was, are placed in the third section of approximately 14 students scheduled for transportation to Mount Rock Elementary School. Mr. Fry indicated that all of the "third-section Newville Elementary School children" would be transported to Newville Elementary School where they would board a bus to Mount Rock Elementary School. Students are assigned nametags so that the bus drivers can identify the students who must be transported between schools. A member of the administration would ride with the students between schools for the first week or so until the students are comfortable with the routine. The bus ride between schools takes approximately 2.5 minutes. Those 14 students would then be placed in the same classroom at Mount Rock Elementary School.

Mr. Fry indicated that although this is not an ideal situation for kindergarten students, the administration attempts to make the experience positive for the students. Mr. Fry indicated that the proposed renovation plans for Newville Elementary School would include additional classrooms at the school, eliminating the need for the transportation of an entire classroom of kindergarten students to Mount Rock Elementary School.

Mr. Fry noted that a classroom of kindergarten students would be transported from Oak Flat Elementary School to Mount Rock Elementary School this year as well. There is the potential need for this scenario at Plainfield Elementary School this year as well.

Director Barrick indicated that a parent's attitude toward a situation bears heavily on the child's ability to adapt, and he encouraged Mrs. Stine to embrace the situation with a positive attitude so that her child would adapt well to the routine.

President Wolf asked the administration to give Mrs. Stine the names and contact information for at least two families who had children in the same situation last year. Mrs. Stine agreed that she would appreciate speaking with parents who have had a similar experience.

President Swanson commended Mrs. Stine for the concern she has for her child, and he added that he believes Mrs. Stine's child would adapt well to this less-than-ideal situation.

Mrs. Stine thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for addressing her concerns.

President Wolf thanked Mrs. Stine for sharing her concerns.

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-10,
following Item A-10.)

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teacher

(ACTION ITEM)

Shelley Raker ~ Elementary Education/English Education 7-12/ESL

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the addition of Ms. Raker to the 2009-2010 per diem substitute teacher list as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

2. Stacey Kimble

Boiling Springs, SC

Oak Flat Elementary Principal

(replacing Mr. Steven Smith, who has transferred)

Education:

Southern Adventist University, TN – Psychology

Wells College, NY – Psychology (Bachelor's Degree)

SUNY Potsdam, NY – Master's in Elementary Education

Converse College, SC – School Leadership and Administration

Experience:

Boiling Springs Intermediate School, SC – Sixth Grade Reading and Science Teacher

Boiling Springs Intermediate School, SC – Assistant Principal

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Kimble to serve as Principal of Oak Flat Elementary School, replacing Mr. Smith, who has transferred. Mrs. Kimble's compensation for this position should be established at \$80,000.00, based on the current Act 93 Agreement.

(ACTION ITEM)

3. Krista Lupfer

Carlisle, PA 17013

Education:

Kutztown University – Speech/Language Pathology (Bachelor's Degree)

Harrisburg Community College

Experience:

Center for Communication Disorders – Student Clinician

Rice Elementary School- South Middleton School District – Intern/Second Grade

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Lupfer to serve as District Speech and Language Clinician beginning December 2009. Ms. Lupfer's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, Step 1 \$37,812.00, plus a \$400.00 special education stipend based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

4. **Michael Berry**
Steelton, PA

Substitute Teacher to start the 2009-2010 school year
Long-Term Substitute starting approximately October 16, 2009
(replacing Mrs. Sharon Kline who will be on maternity leave)

Education:

La Salle University – Secondary Mathematics Education (Bachelor's Degree)

Experience:

Archbishop Wood High School, Warminster, PA – Student Teacher
La Salle University – Tutored College Students

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Berry as a substitute teacher to start the 2009-2010 school year and starting approximately October 16, 2009, to serve as a long-term substitute mathematics teacher at the high school, replacing Mrs. Kline, who will be on child-rearing leave. Mr. Berry's compensation for the Long-Term Mathematics Substitute position should be established at Bachelor's, Step 1 \$37,812.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

(ACTION ITEM)

5. **Amanda Frankford**
Shippensburg, PA 17257

High School Science Teacher
(replacing Mr. Kenneth Vroman who has retired)

Education:

Wilson College – Biology/Chemistry Education (Bachelor's Degree)

Experience:

Big Spring School District – Summer School Teacher
Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Frankford to serve as a High School Science Teacher beginning the 2009-2010 school year, replacing Mr. Kenneth Vroman who has retired. Ms. Frankford's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, Step 1 \$37,812.00, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

(ACTION ITEM)

6. **Tracey Feldbauer**
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Oak Flat Elementary School Reading Teacher
(replacing Ms. Gail Killmon who has resigned)

Education:

Shippensburg University – Elementary Education (Bachelor's Degree) - Reading (Minor)

Experience:

Stafford County Public Schools – Third Grade Teacher
Grace B. Luhr's University Elementary School – First Grade Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Feldbauer to serve as a Reading Teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School, beginning the 2009-2010 school year, replacing Ms. Gail Killmon who has resigned. Ms. Feldbauer's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's, Step 2 \$38,812.00, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, August 3, 2009

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

7. **Mrs. Devon Betz**, reading coordinator and literary coach, submitted her letter of resignation.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Betz's resignation as Reading Coordinator and Literary Coach, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

8. **Mrs. Delene Lantz-Johnson**, high school art teacher, submitted her letter of resignation.

A copy of Mrs. Lantz-Johnson's letter of resignation was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Lantz-Johnson's resignation as High School Art Teacher, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

9. **Approval of Extended Child-Rearing Leave for Amy Deuter**

Mrs. Amy Deuter, learning support teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School, requested extended leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act through March 15, 2010. 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. Deuter's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Amy Deuter's request for extended leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence through March 15, 2010 according to the terms of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

10. **Coaching Appointments**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch recommended the individuals listed to serve as coaches during the 2009-2010 school year.

**Ken Garvin
Jesse Guise
Michael Berry**

**Volunteer Football Coach
Assistant Football Coach
Assistant Football Coach**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint the above listed individuals to coach during the 2009-2010 school year and establish their salaries based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District, pending all required paperwork.

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

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-10, as outlined and recommended above.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Norris, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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 amounts in accordance with the negotiated contract.

Jessica Carr	\$ 1,071.00
Matthew Engleman	\$ 894.00
Tyler Henry	\$ 1,071.00
Heath Myers	\$ 1,071.00
Rachel Myers	\$ 1,080.00
Leah Richwine	\$ 2,160.00
David Roberts	\$ 2,160.00
Valerie Sauter	\$ 1,071.00
Kathleen Shaker	\$ 660.00
Susan Shuey	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>

Total \$12,738.00

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

C. 2009-2010 Bus Drivers

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Richard Deitch, bus contractor, submitted a list of bus drivers for the 2009-2010 school term. A copy of the list of drivers was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors acknowledge receipt of the 2009-2010 bus driver list prepared by Mr. Deitch as presented.

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

D. 2009-2010 Athletic Boosters Fundraising Requests

(ACTION ITEM)

The Big Spring Athletic Boosters organization is requesting permission to conduct the fundraisers listed below during the 2009-2010 school term:

French Fries – Bricker French Fries
Peanuts, cotton candy, popcorn, pizza, ice cream novelties, walk away tacos, flavored water, water and any other foods not already sold by the Band Boosters for fall sports
Sale of various Big Spring School District merchandise/clothing items
50/50 raffle tickets at home events
Food stands/concession stands at winter sporting events

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, August 3, 2009

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

D. 2009-2010 Athletic Boosters Fundraising Requests (Continued) (ACTION ITEM)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Big Spring Athletic Boosters organization's request to conduct the fundraisers listed above during the 2009-2010 school term.

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

E. Planned Course Adoption (ACTION ITEM)

Listed below are completed planned courses for board approval.

High School
World Languages
Spanish IV (Honors)

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the planned courses as presented.

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

F. Contractor Payments (#4) for DAO Boiler Replacement - Capital Reserve Fund (ACTION ITEM)

McKissick Associates reviewed payment applications from Herre Bros., Inc., for work performed on the project. These payments will come from the Capital Reserve Fund. Copies of the payment applications in the amount of \$97,707.51 for HVAC contract and \$8,136.00 for Plumbing contract are included in the Board packet. After these payments, the balance remaining to be paid is \$214,205.89 for HVAC and \$35,349.00 for plumbing.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve payment from the Capital Reserve Fund to Herre Bros., Inc., in the amount of \$97,707.51 for the HVAC contract and \$8,136.00 for the plumbing contract.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Lopp to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Kerr indicated that funds would be transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund to cover these payments.

Roll call vote on the motion by Barrick and second by Lopp to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: Deaver, Norris, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, August 3, 2009

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

G. Updated Transportation Policy

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Gilliam submitted an updated Transportation Policy, and a copy of the policy was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the updated Transportation Policy as presented.

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

In response to a suggestion from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that he would ensure that the director of transportation title is consistent throughout the policy.

Mr. Fry indicated that there were changes in the policy related to tobacco violations, food selling on buses, cell phone use by bus drivers, and baby-sitting requests. Mr. Fry indicated that these items were part of the District's procedure that have now been included in policy, and he added that bus drivers have been reminded of the items in the policy.

Roll call vote on the motion by Swanson and second by Lopp to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: Deaver, Norris, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Grievance #002-0809

(ACTION ITEM)

The Board of School Directors acted on Grievance #002-0809.

A committee of the Board of School Directors heard Grievance 002-0809 on August 3, 2009. The committee recommended that the Big Spring Board of School Directors rule that the purge fan should be installed in the window of Room 242 at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. Installation should occur within three weeks of this ruling.

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

I. 2008-2009 Earned Income Tax Report

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Business Office personnel prepared a 2008-2009 Earned Income Tax Report and a copy of the report was included with the agenda.

Mr. Kerr reported no change in the status of the earned income tax collections.

J. 2008-2009 General Fund Year to Date Report

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Business Office personnel prepared a 2008-2009 General Fund Year to Date Report, and a copy of the report was included with the agenda.

Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, August 3, 2009

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

K. Planned Course Adoption

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Listed below is a completed planned course for board approval. The completed planned course is available in the Curriculum Center for review by the Board of School Directors prior to the August 21, 2009 Board of School Directors meeting.

Music – Guitar I

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Roberts indicated that a preliminary interest poll shows that this class would have full enrollment.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Roberts indicated that acoustic and electric instruments are available for use in the class. Mr. Roberts added that a “motivated group of teachers” in the music department want to see the program grow, so they wrote the curriculum to ensure that this class is part of the program.

XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future Board agenda items.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp

The District Improvement Committee will meet on September 17, 2009, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson

Mr. Swanson reported that today was the opening day for fall sports camps.

Mr. Fry indicated that the athletic trainer is ensuring that the athletes practice only in suitable weather. If the trainer deems weather conditions are unfit, the athletes are removed from the field.

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

President Wolf reported that changes are being made to the vo-tech classified staff, including the merging of three secretarial positions into two positions.

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

Director Barrick reported that a BAT meeting was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2009. Only minor changes have been made to the proposed Newville and Plainfield Elementary School projects, including an adjustment of classroom square footage to meet Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements.

Mr. Barrick reminded Board members that the Act 34 hearings for the proposed Newville and Plainfield Elementary School projects would be held in the high school auditorium on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M., respectively.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

Superintendent Fry indicated that he would meet with the Finance Committee soon to address healthcare, prescriptions, and the budget.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

Because of space concerns, the CAIU business office and human resources office have moved to Lemoyne. The technology department remains at the Summerdale location.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Keystone Exams

Superintendent Fry indicated that last week Pennsylvania's State Board of Education voted 14-2 with one abstention to approve the final form of the Keystone Exam proposal.

Mr. Fry indicated that he sent letters of opposition to PSBA and local representatives for the following reasons:

1. The Keystone Exam counts as one third of a student's final grade, distorting high school grades.
2. A student who scores 64 percent or lower receives a zero for that one third of the course grade. This could affect a school district's AYP if the failing score is in Algebra I, biology, or English 11. It could also affect a school district's federal and state aid.
3. Much of the language in the proposal is vague.
4. There has been no discussion between the model course and the test itself.
5. The process has been rushed.

Mr. Barrick noted that there is no consensus among school districts with regard to the Keystone Exam. Mr. Barrick added that the development of State academic standards has been put on hold until the federal standards are written for math and language arts.

Mr. Fry reported that 46 states are onboard with regard to the federal academic standards. The process is proceeding through the state governors. Mr. Fry noted that the National Math Association and the National English Association have been involved in the discussions regarding federal academic standards. Mr. Fry added that he believes the federal government is "going about it the right way."

B. Staffing

Mr. Fry reported that there were two staff resignations on the agenda tonight that would be vacant at the start of the school year.

Mr. Fry indicated that a high school art teacher position and a reading supervisor position would remain vacant indefinitely, and he noted that other art teachers and members of the administration would ensure that the art and reading programs are delivered satisfactorily. Mr. Fry indicated that these decisions have been made as a result of difficult economic times, and he noted that the decisions would save the District approximately \$100,000.00 a year.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

PSBA Report

Mr. Barrick reported that the PSBA Platform Committee met on Saturday, August 8, 2009, with a main topic of discussion being the Keystone Exams. Mr. Barrick noted that there is "absolutely no agreement" among school districts in the state with regard to Keystone Exams.

Mr. Barrick indicated that after 3.5 hours, a compromise plank was agreed upon that embodies most of what Big Spring wanted in the Keystone Exams plank. Mr. Barrick indicated that the final approval of the plank would be addressed at the October meeting where attendance is expected to be high because of the interest related to Keystone Exams, statewide healthcare, and a proposed tax related to the extraction of natural gas.

Mr. Fry indicated that he received a letter from Timothy Allwein, PSBA's Assistant Executive Director of Governmental and Member Relations, commending Big Spring's Board for the proposal and platform and commending Mr. Barrick for being educated in the process.

Mr. Fry indicated that individuals who have lived in neighboring states, such as New York, Maryland, and Virginia, are proponents of end-of-course examinations because their states have had such examinations in place for many years.

Mr. Fry read some of the proposed PSBA planks and indicated that he would provide additional information regarding all of the proposed planks to the members of the Board of School Directors later this week.

A. Keystone Exams

Mr. Fry indicated that the committee crafted a proposal that is intended to reflect the various key points that were made by members. The approved statement reads as follows:

"PSBA supports efforts to ensure the rigor of the high school diploma and commends the work of school boards to achieve that objective. PSBA believes efforts by state government should be focused on developing instructional tools and resources to assist those districts most in need of such assistance. The association opposes implementation of a mandatory statewide curriculum and state-developed high school end-of-course exams for all students which have the effect of being mandatory for graduation. PSBA supports the continued use of local assessments and full funding of the costs for their validation. PSBA also supports the development of state assessments that would be used at the secondary level. Use of these assessments shall be voluntary in each district until their use is approved by the U.S. Department of Education as the measure of proficiency and the determination of AYP under ESEA and replaces the 11th grade PSSA."

B. Green Technologies

An amended item submitted to the school district of Haverford Township and amended and approved by the Platform Committee reads as follows:

"PSBA supports legislation that would foster, fund, encourage **and/or** enable school districts to incorporate proven green technologies and design elements in construction/renovation projects and in vehicle **leasing or** acquisition and maintenance for the purpose of reducing emissions, energy costs, and excess dependence on fossil fuels. **In addition, PSBA supports legislation that would exempt the costs of proven green technologies and design elements from Act 34 limitations in construction and renovation projects.**"

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR (Continued)

PSBA Report (Continued)

C. Healthcare

Regarding healthcare, the amendment approved by the Platform Committee reads as follows:

"PSBA supports legislation that would provide for a statewide healthcare plan for school employees that: 1) provides for guaranteed employee contributions equal to the level of contributions made by employees in local healthcare plans and for annual escalators in employee contributions based on annual cost increases; 2) gives an equal voice in the development of a statewide plan to school employers; 3) requires a study of current school district healthcare plans and uses the information generated to inform the development of a statewide plan; 4) provides an opportunity for the Legislature to vote on any draft statewide healthcare plan before it is implemented and 5) contains an opt-out provision for districts to use if their healthcare program is less expensive or contains a higher level of benefits than the proposed statewide program."

D. Cyber and Charter Schools

Regarding cyber and charter schools, the amendment approved by the Platform Committee reads as follows:

"PSBA supports legislation to hold cyber and charter schools accountable to the same standards as school districts. PSBA also supports legislation that reduces or eliminates the financial burden on school districts for cyber and charter schools."

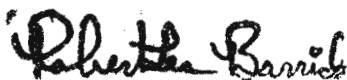
XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

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: Deaver, Norris, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.



Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, September 8, 2009