

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 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 8:03 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Five (5) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Sandra Rosenberry Deaver; William Piper; and Richard Roush. Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; and Richard Norris 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 6:46 to 7:00 P.M. to address a grievance issue.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

III. PRAYER

Director Piper offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 20, 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND JULY 20, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Deaver, seconded by Roush for approval of the July 20, 2009 Committee of the Whole of the Board and July 20, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Piper, Roush, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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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.

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund Account Payment of Bills; Central Treasury Athletic, Cafeteria, and Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account Payment of Bills; and the Capital Reserve Account Payment of Bills

Motion by Roush, seconded by Swanson for approval of General Fund Account checks #54760-54905 totaling \$475,330.82; Central Treasury Athletic Account checks #13204-13207 totaling \$270.10, Central Treasury Cafeteria Account checks #4622-4626 totaling \$18,504.37, and Central Treasury Student Activity/Miscellaneous Account checks #10320-10321 totaling \$250.00; and Capital Reserve Account checks #538-540 totaling \$179,006.75. Grand total General Fund, Athletic, Cafeteria, Student Activity/Miscellaneous, and Capital Reserve Fund: \$673,362.04. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Piper, Roush, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Jason Kutulakis, Heath Myers, Scott Penner, and Ken Whisler,

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- A. **Mr. Jason Kutulakis**, 1986 graduate of Big Spring High School and president of the Bulldog Foundation, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and commended and thanked the Board for being proactive with regard to providing the funds to implement an updated website. Mr. Kutulakis indicated that, in his opinion, he believes the upgrade was "absolutely necessary."

Mr. Kutulakis indicated that he supports the construction of a new Plainfield Elementary School and renovations to the Newville Elementary School, and he encouraged the Board to support those projects. Mr. Kutulakis indicated that, in his opinion, the Board has been fiscally responsible in all past construction projects, and he encouraged the Board to "press forward" with the projects. Mr. Kutulakis indicated that he trusts the Board to make decisions in the best interests of Big Spring School District residents.

Mr. Kutulakis indicated that it is his hope that the geothermal energy option would be implemented in the two proposed projects, and President Wolf responded that the geothermal energy option is factored into the proposed plans.

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X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)

A. Mr. Jason Kutulakis (Continued)

Mr. Kutulakis reported on the recent activities of the Bulldog Foundation. The following items were noted:

1. The Bulldog Foundation is gaining momentum.
2. The 11th annual golf fundraiser will be held this August. Last year the fundraiser netted approximately \$9,500.00. \$7,500.00 of that was awarded in the form of teacher grants, with \$2000.00 provided for student scholarships. The Bulldog Foundation hopes to exceed last year's fundraising effort.
3. A Bulldog Foundation newsletter has been mailed. The last mailing occurred in 1994 when the foundation began.
4. A database of Big Spring graduates is being created that includes those Big Spring graduates who reside outside the District.
5. A Bulldog Foundation general membership campaign has been launched, and memberships are being received daily. The Bulldog Foundation hopes to recruit members who are graduates of Big Spring School District as well as individuals who live in the District. Membership fees are available in the amounts of \$15.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, and \$100.00, as well as a lifetime membership for \$500.00. Mr. Kutulakis requested that the Board and the Superintendent consider inviting teachers and staff members to join the Bulldog Foundation.
6. The first annual Bulldog Foundation "Hall of Fame" catered dinner/silent auction fundraiser is slated for September 26, 2009, at the high school. National Honor Society students will be invited to play a role in the event. Dan Dorthy will provide piano music, with a performance of "Midlife Crisis," a popular local band, following dinner.

President Wolf thanked Mr. Kutulakis for his public comment this evening and for the work he has done on behalf of the Bulldog Foundation.

- B. Mr. Ken Whisler, 40 Brandt Lane, Newville, PA, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and indicated that two wells have been drilled and donated to the Bulldog Foundation by Whisler Well Drilling in appreciation for the work the Big Spring School District has hired the firm to complete over the years. The two wells are drilled between 200 and 248 feet, with an estimated yield of 100 gallons per minute. Mr. Whisler indicated that Whisler Well Drilling has obtained pre-owned pumps for the wells to irrigate the athletic fields.

Mr. Whisler suggested that the one dry well could be used as a possible thermal conductivity test well.

Mr. Whisler indicated that the wells are drilled in shale ground, and he noted that the company would attempt to install pipes under the road without cutting the blacktop.

President Wolf thanked Mr. Whisler and Whisler's Well Drilling for all they have done for the Big Spring School District.

Those present thanked Mr. Whisler and Whisler's Well Drilling with a round of applause.

XI. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No structured public comment was offered.

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XII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

(NOTE: The Board addressed
XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-6,
following Item A-6.)

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

1. **Ms. Lori Horn**, part-time library aide at Newville Elementary School, submitted her letter of resignation.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Horn's resignation as part-time library aide at Newville Elementary School, effective immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

2. **Jennifer Keller** (Replacing Mrs. Sally McClain, who has resigned)
Carlisle, PA 17015

Education:

West Chester University – Communicative Disorders (Bachelor's Degree)

Experience:

West Chester University Speech and Hearing Clinic - Therapist

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Keller to serve District Speech/Language Clinician for the 2009-2010 school year, replacing Mrs. McClain, who has resigned. Ms. Keller'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.

(ACTION ITEM)

3. **Donna Lubold** Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher
Carlisle, PA 17015 at Newville Elementary School
(replacing Mrs. Aimee Yost, who will be on child-rearing leave)

Education:

Shippensburg University – Elementary Education (Bachelor's Degree)

Experience:

Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher

Cumberland Valley School District – Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Lubold to serve as a long-term substitute kindergarten teacher at Newville Elementary School beginning the 2009-2010 school year, replacing Mrs. Yost, who will be on child-rearing leave. Ms. Lubold'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.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

4. **Karyn Cunningham**
Carlisle, PA 17015

Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher
at Oak Flat Elementary School
(replacing Mrs. Jessica Shover, who
will be on child-rearing leave)

Education:

University of Pittsburgh – Elementary Education (Bachelor's Degree)

Experience:

Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Cunningham to serve as a long-term substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Oak Flat Elementary School beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, replacing Mrs. Shover, who will be on child-rearing leave. Ms. Cunningham'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)

5. Re-Appointment of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Jeanne Temple was appointed to a three-year term as Assistant Superintendent of Schools commencing October 2, 2006, and concluding on October 1, 2009. The Board of School Directors was prepared this evening to take action on the re-appointment of Mrs. Temple for the period commencing October 2, 2009, and concluding October 1, 2014.

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that Mrs. Jeanne Temple be reappointed as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the period commencing October 2, 2009, and concluding October 1, 2014.

(ACTION ITEM)

6. **Ms. Megan Frantz**, learning support teacher at Newville Elementary School, requested three days leave without pay, for Wednesday, September 23, 2009, Thursday, September 24, 2009 and Friday, September 25, 2009.

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."

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Frantz's request for three days leave without pay as presented.

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

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Roush to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-6, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Piper, Roush, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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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.

Micah Artz	\$ 1,080.00
Barbara Dellinger	\$ 1,071.00
Megan Frantz	\$ 1,071.00
Julie Friscia	\$ 2,142.00
Wendy Hanks	\$ 1,035.00
Erin Heaps	\$ 2,142.00
Samantha Hinchey	\$ 2,142.00
Noelle King	\$ 1,071.00
Judith Kuntz-Mislitski	\$ 404.00
Greg Perry	\$ 801.00
Mark Potter	\$ 789.99
Jennifer Roberts	\$ 2,142.00
Heather Schwartzmiller	\$ 2,160.00
Brandie Shatto	\$ 1,071.00
Heather Shepard	\$ 1,428.00
Jason Shover	\$ 1,071.00

Total \$21,620.99

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

(The Board addressed XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items C and D, following Item D.)

C. Facilities Utilization Request

(ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Jen Weibley, Newville PTO, requested to use the Newville Elementary School grounds for Newville Elementary School's Ice Cream Social on Sunday, May 16, 2010, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Weibley's request to use Newville Elementary School grounds as presented.

D. Facilities Utilization Request

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ryan Swartz requested permission to use the stadium for midget football games on Sunday, August 23, 2009, at 1:00 p.m.; August 30, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.; September 19, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.; September 20, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.; September 26, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.; and October 11, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Because the utilization dated fall on Sundays, Board action is necessary.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

D. Facilities Utilization Request (Continued) (ACTION ITEM)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mr. Swartz's request to use the stadium as presented.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Piper to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items C and D, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Piper, Roush, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

(The Board addressed XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items E and F, following Item F.)

E. Planned Course Adoption (ACTION ITEM)

Listed below are completed planned courses for board approval.

High School

Social Studies Electives

Military History I (9-12)

Military History (11-12)

Business Education Courses

Computer Applications (9)

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

F. Proposed Textbook Adoption (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology, recommended the following textbooks to the Superintendent of Schools:

Course	Title	Publisher	Copyright
Middle School Language Arts	McDougal Littell Literature	Holt-McDougal	2008
	McDougal Littell Literature Grammar Handbook	Holt-McDougal	2008

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

Motion by Deaver, seconded by Roush to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, Items E and F, as outlined and recommended above. Voting Yes: Deaver, Piper, Roush, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Grievance #002-0809 (ACTION ITEM)

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Roush to table Grievance #002-0809 until the August 17, 2009 meeting of the Board of School Directors. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Deaver, Piper, Roush, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

H. 2009-2010 – 2010-2011 Per Diem Substitute Teacher Rate

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Richard W. Fry, Superintendent, recommended an increase in Big Spring School District's compensation for substitute teachers. The recommended increase for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years is \$95.00 per day. This is a \$5.00 increase from the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve the 2009-2010 – 2010-2011 per diem substitute teacher rate as presented.

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

I. Planned Course Adoption

(INFORMATION ITEM)

Listed below are completed planned courses for board approval. All completed planned courses are available in the Curriculum Center for review by the Board of School Directors prior to the August 17, 2009, Board of School Directors meeting.

High School
World Languages
Spanish IV (Honors)

XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future Board agenda items.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson

Vice President Swanson thanked Mr. Hockenbroch for organizing a successful and worthwhile athletic coaches' clinic last Friday and Saturday.

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

The Act 34 hearing for the proposed Newville Elementary School construction project is slated for Wednesday, August 19, 2009, beginning at 7:00 P.M., with the Act 34 hearing for the proposed new Plainfield Elementary School at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Fry encouraged all Board members to be present for the Act 34 hearings.

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XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

Mr. Fry indicated that the Finance Committee would meet in the next couple weeks to review the District's insurance package, the status of the new consultant, and changes in the Express Scripts program.

Mr. Kerr indicated that the earned income tax collections this year were \$261,000.00 (6 percent) less than the same period last year. Mr. Kerr indicated that since the 2009-2010 earned income tax revenue budget was decreased only 1.5 percent, it is likely that there would be a deficit at year's end.

In addition, Mr. Kerr indicated that real estate tax collections this year were \$701,000.00 less than the same period last year, although it was noted that we are still within the bounds of the discount period.

Mr. Kerr urged "fiscal constraint for next year," and Mr. Fry concurred.

In response to a question from Vice President Swanson, Mr. Kerr indicated that there could, indeed, be potential for a combined earned income tax/real estate revenue deficit of \$900,000.00 for 2009-2010.

President Wolf encouraged the Board to evaluate the District's finances following the audit in the fall.

Mr. Wolf thanked Mr. Kerr for the report.

F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

H. Capital Tax Collection Bureau – Mr. Wolf

President Wolf indicated that he and Mr. Kerr would attend the Act 32 planning meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, in South Middleton regarding the Cumberland County Tax Collection Committee (CCTCC). In October or November 2009, that body will make determinations about a single Cumberland County-wide entity to collect earned income taxes.

Mr. Fry indicated that we hosted a productive Act 32 discussion session last week where seven of the District's ten municipalities were represented. Mr. Fry indicated that a representative from the Capital Tax Collection Bureau participated in the discussion, and Mr. Fry believes the CCTCC will make decisions cooperatively that would benefit the residents of Cumberland County.

Mr. Roush indicated that he would request to be relieved of his responsibilities as the Upper Frankford Township liaison to the CCTCC, and he noted that there should be an alternate liaison appointed at the next Township meeting.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Staff Positions

Superintendent Fry indicated that he is pleased that one speech clinician was hired this evening, and he noted that he is hopeful that the administration would have a recommendation for a second speech clinician at the August 17, 2009 Board meeting.

An interview was conducted today to fill the high school earth and space science position, and interviews for the Oak Flat Elementary School principal position will be conducted next week.

B. Welcome, Teachers!

Mr. Fry indicated that teachers would be welcomed back to school on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at 7:45 a.m. Mr. Fry invited Board members to attend. President Wolf will offer encouragement to the teachers at that time.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. PSBA/Keystone Examinations

President Wolf indicated that PSBA should be notified once again that Director Roush is the Board's PSBA liaison.

President Wolf received from PSBA and provided to the members of the Board of School Directors copies of a PSBA questionnaire regarding the Board's position on the proposed Keystone Exam.

Superintendent Fry indicated that Big Spring School District has submitted to PSBA a Keystone Exam platform to be addressed at the August 8, 2009 PSBA meeting. Big Spring supports the end-of-year assessments only if they are modified to include a differentiated system of assessments that align with the skill sets of students for graduation purposes. Big Spring also requests that the State would allow local assessments and fund their validation. Mr. Fry indicated that neither of these items is included in the current Keystone Exam proposal.

Mr. Fry indicated that he believes teachers would support the Keystone Exams in lieu of the final examination for a course as long as the teachers "know the target they are shooting at."

Mr. Fry indicated that, while he supports the concept of a Keystone Exam, he does not believe it is fair to calculate the exam as 33 percent of a student's total grade; however, it has been said that legislators have made this item "non-negotiable." Currently at Big Spring, final examinations count for 20 percent of a student's total grade.

Mr. Fry indicated that legislators have included something similar to Maryland's Bridge Plan for Academic Validation; however, a student must have failed the Keystone Exam twice and completed remediation classes before the bridge program is an option for that student. Tests such as the NOCTI would be part of the bridge plan.

President Wolf fears that students who fail the Keystone Exam and are denied a diploma would then become second-class citizens, even though they could have become useful citizens in the community had they been granted a diploma.

XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. PSBA/Keystone Examinations (Continued)

Mr. Fry indicated that the only portions of the Keystone Exam that would count toward a District's AYP would be algebra, eleventh grade language arts, and biology; however, the Keystone Exam would be written for six other subjects as well.

President Wolf indicated that, in his opinion, school districts should have a better vehicle to determine AYP than the PSSAs.

Mr. Fry indicated that it would be in the District best interest to oppose the Keystone Exam in its current form.

The five Board members present this evening oppose the Keystone Exam in its current form.

Mr. Fry indicated that two bills have been proposed in the legislature to prohibit the State Board of Education from moving forward the Keystone Exam without seeking additional direction from the education community; however, he added that he has received word that the Keystone Exam would become reality the second week of August 2009.

B. Thank You!

President Wolf thanked the Big Spring Education Association for granting the Board two more weeks to consider the pending grievance issue.


XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.



Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, August 17, 2009