

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 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 Auditorium at 8:01 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Six (6) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Kingsley Blasco; David Gutshall; and Richard Roush.

Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Richard Norris; and William Piper were 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; Steve Smith, High School Principal; Sarah Weingarten and Alyssa Jones, 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 Blasco offered a prayer.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2010 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES; AND THE DECEMBER 20, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Blasco for approval of the December 20, 2010 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the December 20, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Roush, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

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V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Alyssa Jones & Sarah Weingarten

The students offered the following report:

- A. FFA students competed at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show and earned the following awards: Farm Safety Quiz Bowl competitors earned third place; two students earned FFA's highest degree, the Keystone Degree; six students earned free FFA jackets by entering an essay competition; the landscape and window displays both earned first place.
- B. Juniors are preparing for the March math and reading PSSAs using Study Island both at home and at school. Students could earn up to \$40 in gift cards by completing the Study Island math (34 sections) and reading (20 sections) programs. The gift cards are funded by both Mr. Smith's principal's account as well as District grant funds.
- C. High school faculty and staff contributed more than \$1,100 to the United Way during the District's campaign.
- D. Students raised \$5,000 for the Children's Miracle Network during the Holiday Classic for boys' and girls' basketball. Both teams placed second of four teams, with the girls missing first place by three points.
- E. Fourteen junior and senior entries were submitted last week to the Scholastic Writing Competition.
- F. The World Languages Festival was held December 22, 2010. Students prepared and shared ethnic foods, and a dance instructor from Shippensburg University offered dance lessons.
- G. The National Art Honor Society will induct its inaugural class on Monday, January 24, 2011, with an induction ceremony and dinner for five seniors and their parents. The event is being organized by Mr. McVitty. Students must maintain an A average in all art classes and a high academic average overall, in addition to completing service activities through the Art Club.
- H. Through the food drive and star tree at Saylor's, the National Honor Society gathered enough food for 40 families and enough presents for 160 children. The food and gifts were distributed before the holiday.
- I. Plans are underway for the 12-hour Mini-THON, a lock-in event where students raise money for The Four Diamonds Fund to conquer pediatric cancer.
- J. Student Council's Peppermint Paradise Winter Ball is slated for Saturday, February 12, 2011, in the high school commons area.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Blasco to adjourn to Executive Session to address a personnel issue at 8:09 P.M. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Roush, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:17 P.M.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT (Balances as of December 31, 2010)

General Fund	14,741,521.62
Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund	170,947.35
Cafeteria Fund	168,788.57
Newville Project	2,251,293.21
Capital Projects	1,221,677.52

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

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VIII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	496,962.42	Checks #60603-60887
Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund	14,606.89	Checks #12417-12448
Newville Project Fund	93,947.46	Checks #163-165
Cafeteria Fund	102,607.78	Checks #5363-5379
Total	\$708,124.55	

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

IX. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

X. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Kathy Bravin, Stephanie Cramer, Charlene D'Amore, Andrew DeGregorio, Megan Frantz, Dan Lehman, April Messenger, Jason Shover, Jim Smith, and Bethany Stanton.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Andrew DeGregorio, 22 Hilltop Lane, Newville, PA, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and indicated that his daughter has been a Big Spring cheerleader since elementary age through her high school years. Mr. DeGregorio expressed his disappointment that a situation has arisen that the varsity cheerleading coach has been forced to resign.

Mr. DeGregorio asked that the Board reconsider its decision, and he noted that the coach has been an excellent mentor to his daughter as well as many other students. Mr. DeGregorio indicated that the coach has been a good influence on teenagers when they are faced with the difficulties of that stage of life.

Mr. DeGregorio thanked the Board for allowing him to speak this evening.

President Wolf thanked Mr. DeGregorio for sharing his concerns.

XII. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No structured public comment was offered.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

(NOTE: The Board addressed
XIV., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS,
Items A-1 through A-3 and Items A-5 to A-13,
following Item A-13.)

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

(ACTION ITEM)

1. **Mrs. Linda Frantz's** submitted her letter of resignation as a part-time evening custodian at the high school, retroactive to December 24, 2010.

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

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Frantz's resignation as a part-time evening custodian at the high school, retroactive to December 24, 2010.

(ACTION ITEM)

2. **Ms. Jill Barrick** was recommended to serve as a long-term substitute aide at the Middle School through the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year, replacing Mrs. Boudier who is on medical leave.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Barrick as a long-term substitute aide at the Middle School through the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

(ACTION ITEM)

3. **Mrs. Earlene Heckendorn**, District Finance Controller, submitted her letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2011. Mrs. Heckendorn's severance allowance has been calculated and submitted to the Board for approval at this time.

As per the following calculations, Mrs. Heckendorn is entitled to a severance allowance in the amount of \$5,425.00, under option #1.

Option #1:

31 years of service X \$175.00 = \$5,425.00
(9,500.00 maximum)

Option #2:

24.5 unused sick leave days X \$50.00 = \$1,225.00
(9,500.00 maximum)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Heckendorn's letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement and her severance allowance of \$5,425.00 as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

4. **Ms. Andrea Lehman**, submitted her letter of resignation as Varsity Cheerleading Coach, effective immediately.

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

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

4. Ms. Andrea Lehman (Continued) **(ACTION ITEM)**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Ms. Lehman's resignation as Varsity Cheerleading Coach, effective immediately.

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

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Gutshall, Roush, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Voting No: Blasco.

Total Yes votes: Five (5). Total No votes: One (1). Motion carried by a majority vote.

(NOTE: The Board addressed XIV., NEW BUSINESS, Item B, at this time.)

(ACTION ITEM)

5. Ms. Michele Northrop was recommended to serve as Middle School Odyssey of the Mind Coach, effectively immediately, replacing Mrs. Susan Lyons who has resigned.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Northrop as Middle School Odyssey of the Mind Coach, effectively immediately.

(ACTION ITEM)

6. Ms. Julie Fealtman was recommended to serve as a part-time cashier at the high school, effective immediately.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Fealtman to serve as a part-time cashier at the High School, effective immediately.

7. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teachers **(ACTION ITEM)**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additions of the individuals listed to the 2010-2011 per diem substitute teacher list as presented, pending all required paperwork.

Sheila Wasser - Elementary Education

Lisa Davis - Elementary Education/English 7-9

(ACTION ITEM)

8. Ms. Emily Stum, was recommended to serve as a six (6) hour per day Intensive Learning Support Aide at Mt. Rock Elementary School due to increased class enrollment.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Stum as a six (6) hour per day Intensive Learning Support Aide at Mt. Rock Elementary School due to increased class enrollment.

(ACTION ITEM)

9. Ms. Tanya Armolt, was recommended to serve as a five (5) hour per day aide at Newville Elementary School, replacing Mrs. Schoonover, who has transferred.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Ms. Armolt as a five (5) hour per day aide at Newville Elementary School as presented.

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

10. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Katie Magee

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Katie Magee, seventh grade English teacher at the middle school requested leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act from approximately April 3, 2011 through approximately the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. 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. Magee's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Magee's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence from approximately April 3, 2011 through approximately the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, according to the terms of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

(ACTION ITEM)

11. Ms. Corrie Saracina

Carlisle, PA 17015

Long-Term Substitute Middle School

Keyboarding Teacher (replacing Mr. Scott Meldrum)

Education:

Shippensburg University – Criminal Justice

Experience:

Big Spring School District – Substitute Teacher

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Saracina to serve as a Long-Term Substitute Keyboarding Teacher at the Middle School, replacing Mr. Meldrum. Ms. Saracina's compensation should be established at Step 1, Bachelor's Degree \$40,092.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring School District.

12. Substitute Cafeteria Worker

(ACTION ITEM)

The individual whose name is listed below was recommended to serve as a substitute cafeteria worker during the 2010-2011 school year.

Melissa Tressler

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Tressler as a substitute cafeteria worker as presented.

(ACTION ITEM)

13. Ms. Suzanne Brett

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Long-Term Substitute High School English

(replacing Mr. Robert Hanks, who is on medical leave)

Education:

Moravian College – Bachelors in English

East Stroudsburg University - Education

Experience:

Bethlehem Catholic High School – English Teacher

Easton Area High School – English Teacher

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

13. Ms. Suzanne Brett (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Ms. Brett to serve as a Long-Term Substitute English teacher at the High School, replacing Mr. Hanks, who is on medical leave with the anticipated date of return being the end of February, 2011. Ms. Brett's compensation should be established at Step 9, Bachelor's Degree \$48,941.00, prorated, based on the current contract between the Big Spring School District.

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

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Blasco to combine and approve XIV., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-13, as outlined and recommended above.

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Barrick to amend the motion and combine and approve XIV., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-3 and A-5 through A-13, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Roush, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

(NOTE: The Board addressed XIV., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Item 4, at this time.)

XIV. 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.

Amber Brennan	\$2,322.00
Matthew Brinkman	2,322.00
Therese Bukousky	1,170.00
Barbara Dellinger	1,161.00
Stephanie Devonald	2,322.00
Nicole Donato	1,200.00
Tracey Feldbauer	1,161.00
Jamie Fortney	1,161.00
Megan Frantz	1,161.00
Julie Friscia	1,161.00
Michael Fronk	660.00
Richard Fry	1,000.00
Stacey Gibb	2,136.00
Kassandra Gordon	1,161.00

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Credit Pay (ACTION ITEM)

Christina Gruver	2,400.00
Tyler Henry	1,113.00
Kay Keim	2,340.00
Jennifer Kuhn	1,170.00
Abigail Leonard	1,170.00
Nicholas Losiewski	1,161.00
Leslie Lynch	1,161.00
Rachel Myers	1,600.00
Sherisa Nailor	1,200.00
Ashley Oldham	1,161.00
Bethany Pagze	1,161.00
Jennifer Roberts	1,161.00
Sarah Roller	2,322.00
Valerie Sauter	1,548.00
Bethany Stanton	1,110.00
Sara Vanderheijden	980.01
Deborah Whitmoyer	2,040.00
Stephanie Weller	1,170.00
Erin Zinn	1,170.00
Total	\$48,397.01

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

(ACTION ITEM)

C. Proposed Updated Job Description for the Department Assistant Chairperson

Mr. Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Technology Instruction, made some revisions to the job description for the Department Assistant Chairperson.

A copy of the job description was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the job description for the Department Assistant Chairperson as presented.

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

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

D. Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School General Fund Budget Proposal

The Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School developed a General Fund Budget Proposal for the 2011–2012 school year. The proposed budget reflects a 4.07% increase for the Big Spring School District. The dollar value of this increase for Big Spring School District is \$27,673.00

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the proposed 2011-2012 CPAVTS budget as presented with the understanding that the actual cost for Big Spring's participation in the Vo-Tech school will be determined based on final enrollment calculations.

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

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Fry indicated that Big Spring's per-student cost for the vo-tech school is based on Big Spring's five-year average student enrollment. Big Spring sends 100 to 120 students to the vo-tech school on average each year. Mr. Fry added that Big Spring is very committed to the vo-tech program because the District is required by School Code to offer a vocational program similar to the vo-tech school, whether it is provided on Big Spring's campus or elsewhere.

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

E. 2011-2012 Capital Area Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget **(ACTION ITEM)**

A summary of the Capital Area Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget for the 2011-2012 school year was included in the agenda. The budget reflects a 1.4% increase for the 2011-2012 school year. This percentage equates to a \$371.72 increase for the Big Spring School District.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Capital Area Intermediate Unit's 2011-2012 General Operating Budget as presented.

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

President Wolf clarified that this item addresses the operating budget only, and he added that there are approximately 70 additional CAIU budgets that are self-funded.

Mr. Fry indicated that Big Spring's share of the operating budget would be approximately \$28,855 next year. The District pays above and beyond this fee for students who receive services from the CAIU.

President Wolf noted that this fee is simply to keep the CAIU operating.

Mr. Fry noted that supporting the IU financially is a State mandate for school districts.

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

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

F. Proposed 2011-2012 School District Calendar

(ACTION ITEM)

The administration drafted a proposed school district calendar for the 2011-2012 school year, and copies of the proposed calendar were provided to the Board of School Directors at the December 20, 2010 board meeting.

Additional copies were included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the proposed 2011-2012 school district calendar as presented.

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

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that the 2011-2012 calendar would be posted on the District's website after it is approved by the Board.

G. Newville Elementary PTO Fundraisers

(ACTION ITEM)

The Newville Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is requesting permission to conduct the fundraisers listed below during the 2010-2011 school term.

Italian Taxi Subs (Spring) Catalogue Sale

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Newville Elementary Parent Teacher Organization's request to conduct the fundraisers listed above during the 2010-2011 school term.

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

H. Contractor Payment #11 for Newville Project – Construction Fund **(ACTION ITEM)**

McKissick Associates reviewed the payment applications for work performed on the Newville Addition & Renovation project. The payment to eciConstruction includes a +\$40,000 adjustment to cover work accomplished during the delay in processing App #11; that amount will be deducted from the next pay application approved by McKissick. These payments will come from the Newville Project Fund. A copy of the completed and notarized payment applications was included with the agenda in the following amounts:

<u>Prime</u>	<u>Vendor / App #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance to Pay</u>
General	eciConstruction, LLC	\$52,832.40	\$100,688.17
HVAC	MidState Mechanical & Electrical,	-	\$ 27,693.04
Electrical	MidState Mechanical & Electrical,	-	\$22,939.00
Plumbing	Mann Plumbing and Heating, LLC	\$2,836.80	\$3,636.8

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

H. Contractor Payment #11 for Newville Project – Construction Fund **(ACTION ITEM)** (Continued)

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve payment from the Newville Project Fund to eciConstruction, LLC in the amount of \$52,832.40; to Mann Plumbing and Heating, LLC in the amount of \$2,836.80.

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

I. Collective Bargaining Agreement **(ACTION ITEM)**

The current Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Big Spring Board of School Directors and the Big Spring Education Association is set to expire on June 30, 2011. The Board has been in discussions with the Association to develop a successor agreement.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Big Spring Education Association to be in effect from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2014.

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

Mr. Fry indicated that the results of the Board's vote on this issue this evening would be published via a joint press release with the Big Spring Education Association after BSEA votes later this week.

President Wolf read the following prepared statement, and he added that his view in no way reflects on the quality of the professional staff at Big Spring:

"I think it is important for those who will vote for this agreement to acknowledge, given what we know now about pension contribution and health care cost increases, that the cost to the taxpayers over the term of this agreement to keep an individual teacher in the classroom will increase not by 9.1 percent, the cumulative total of the salary increases, but will increase by a total of more than 20 percent, or 7 percent per year. Further, if an individual staff member moves from the Bachelor's to Master's column on the pay scale, the increased cost will likely be 30 percent, or 10 percent per year.

"This increase cannot be covered by taxes allowed within the Act 1 index, so the District will have to reduce staff, cut programs, or defer maintenance in order to balance its budget. It is also important to acknowledge that taxes to support this agreement will have to come from many families whose wage earners have had minimal salary increases in recent years and who have been required to significantly increase their health care contributions."

Director Blasco responded that he believes the Finance Committee has done a reasonable job offsetting some of those proposed salary increases with budget cuts already. Based on budget projections, even though there may be salary increases for teachers, Mr. Blasco noted that he does not anticipate an increase with regard to taxes to pay for this proposed contract.

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

I. Collective Bargaining Agreement (Continued)

(ACTION ITEM)

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Blasco indicated that he believes future budgets would remain within the Statewide Average Wage Index, while supporting the proposed contract. Mr. Blasco indicated that when the Finance Committee created the contract proposal, the members did so by offsetting the increase with savings in other areas.

Roll call vote on the Motion by Barrick and second by Blasco to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Roush, Barrick, and Swanson. Voting No: Wolf. Total Yes votes: Five (5). Total No votes: One (1). Motion carried by a majority vote.

(DISCUSSION ITEM)

J. Elementary Reconfiguration Timeline and Decision Making Process

Mr. Fry indicated that he would prepare and share with the Board in writing a timeline for the proposed elementary school reconfiguration, and he added that he believes the administration now has gathered enough information to move forward with a Board vote on this issue.

Mr. Fry noted that in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, a public hearing on this issue must be conducted 90 days prior to the Board's vote. February 7, 2011, at 6:00 P.M. is the time set aside for the public hearing regarding the proposed elementary school reconfiguration/closing of Plainfield Elementary School. The final Board vote on this issue could occur on May 2 or May 9, 2011; however, preliminary planning for staffing and furniture needs related to the proposed change will occur now.

Because of this timeline, kindergarten registration this year will be conducted later than usual.

Discussions with township and private land owners regarding a proposed access road from Route 233 to Mount Rock Road are underway.

President Wolf requested information for parents related to the time spent on buses, especially for students on buses that would be stopping at two schools for dropoffs/pickups, and he noted that any specific information in this regard for parents would be helpful.

Mr. Fry agreed and added that the concept of rolling arrivals and rolling departures would be an adjustment for students and staff, and he noted that he would prepare concrete descriptors of that process for all involved.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that if the reconfiguration plan is approved by the Board, only the elementary school bus routes would be adjusted during the reconfiguration process. After approximately two years, the administration would address District-wide transportation efficiencies.

Mr. Fry concluded that the administration would advertise February 7, 2011, at 6:00 P.M. as the time set aside for the public hearing regarding the proposed elementary school reconfiguration/closing of Plainfield Elementary School.

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XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

K. 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 February 7, 2011, Board of School Directors meeting.

High School
Living On Your Own
Essential Home Projects

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 is included with the agenda.

Mr. Kerr announced that taxes are “holding strong,” and expenses are “running below what is expected.” The Business Office is in the midst of the year-end closeout for real estate tax collections.

(INFORMATION ITEM)

- M. The Board will vote on a preliminary General Fund budget at the February 7, 2011 meeting. A copy of that budget for review was included in the packet.

Mr. Fry commended the Finance Committee for doing due diligence with regard to the preliminary budget, working with multiple unknowns related to government funding of public education.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that a proposed 4.4 percent tax increase is the worst-case scenario.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that preliminary State budget proposal is expected on March 8, 2011.

President Wolf noted that the new governor has announced that he is committed to no new taxes; however, that could be difficult with such a large deficit.

XV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM

There were no future Board agenda items.

XVI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered. The District Improvement Committee is slated to meet on Thursday, January 20, 2011.

B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered. The Athletic Committee is set to meet on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 7:00 A.M.

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XVI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick

Please refer to this evening's Buildings and Property Committee meeting minutes.

E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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. Tax Collection Committee (TCC) – Mr. Wolf

A meeting is slated for Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at Carlisle High School, to address the process of a merger with West Shore Tax Bureau as the tax collection agency. At this point, it is estimated that it would cost Big Spring School District \$27,000 to buy its portion of hardware, furniture, computer programs, and to compensate current members for that.

The transition to West Shore Tax Bureau is set to occur on January 1, 2012. A portion of the \$27,000 due from Big Spring would be deducted from each monthly check and would not require the District to pay the entire sum at one time.

XVII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Second Semester

Superintendent Fry announced that the second semester would begin on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. Mr. Fry added that the District had a "healthy, sound first semester," with the successful integration of MAPS.

B. Sale of Mifflin Elementary School Building

Mr. Fry reported that the investigation into the sale of the Mifflin Elementary School building is going well. The solicitor has recommended that the best way to proceed with the sale is by sealed bid. Mr. Kerr and Mr. Fry are in the process of working out the details of the sealed-bid process. The terms and conditions of that method of sale could be fixed by the Board in a motion and/or resolution. This sealed-bid process is permitted, even though there are three years remaining on the lease. The current tenant has expressed interest in purchasing the building.

Mr. Fry noted that a private sale or a public auction have been deemed unsuitable for disposal of this building.

Mr. Fry indicated that a similar process could occur with the Frankford Elementary School building.

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XVII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

C. Thank you, Members of the Board of School Directors!

Superintendent Fry announced that January is Board Appreciation Month, and he presented Board members with a gift from the administration and staff. Mr. Fry noted that it is unique to Big Spring that 9 board members have more than 100 years of Board experience, and he added that this is "unheard of in Pennsylvania."

Mr. Fry thanked the members of the Board of School Directors on behalf of the administration, staff, and community for the many sacrifices that Board members make on behalf of the District.

XVIII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A. Happy Birthday, Mayor of Newville!

Director Barrick noted that Saturday, January 22, 2011, is Newville Mayor Becky Barrick's birthday.

B. FFA

Director Blasco commended the work of the FFA as a whole, and he applauded Big Spring's FFA for a "great program and great display" at the Farm Show this year.

XIX. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment regarding future Board agenda items.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Roush to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Roush, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, February 7, 2011