

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, MARCH 22, 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 Mount 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 8:12 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Nine (9) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; Terry Lopp, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; David Gutshall; Richard Norris; William Piper; and Richard Roush.

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; Denny Clopper, The Valley Times-Star; Alyssa Jones, Student Representative to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*The members of the Board of School Directors met in Executive Session to address personnel and negotiations issues from 7:22 to 8:10 P.M.*

### **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 MARCH 7, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, THE MARCH 7, 2011 BUILDING AND PROPERTY MINUTES AND THE MARCH 7, 2011 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES.**

Motion by Blasco, seconded by Lopp for approval of the March 7, 2011 Buildings and Property Committee Meeting Minutes; the March 7, 2011 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes; and the March 7, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Tuesday, March 22, 2010

### V. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS

#### Student Representatives to the Board Report - Alyssa Jones

Miss Jones offered the following report:

- A. High school juniors began taking the PSSAs last week and this week in math and reading. The next two weeks students will be tested in writing and science. Students prepared for the PSSAs using Study Island, an online program.
- B. Forty-seven musicians have returned from a trip to Disney World Wednesday, March 16, through Monday, March 21, 2011.
- C. The indoor guard competition season is off to a great start. The bronze guard has earned two first places in recent competitions, and the gold guard has placed first and third.
- D. In wrestling news, Greg Warner won a match at the PIAA state meet, and Derek Enders finished fifth. Eight of the fourteen wrestlers selected for the All Colonial Division First Team are from Big Spring.
- E. Six swimmers/divers participated in the PIAA state swim meet at Bucknell University last week. Emily Shumaker broke her own school record and placed fourth in the 100 backstroke and qualified for the All State Team. Kelsey Fickes, Kelsey Marshall, Lexi Walker, and Dewey Stout were named Honorable Mention All State.
- F. Coaches from the 31 Mid Penn high schools voted the Big Spring boys' winter sports teams (basketball, wrestling, and swimming) as the Mid Penn Sportsmanship Award recipients. An award banner will be placed in the gymnasium. The winter sports girls' team received sportsmanship votes as well.
- G. The 2010 baseball team earned the Mid Penn Sportsmanship Award for baseball, voted on by the Cumberland Valley Umpires Association.
- H. The Wizard of Oz performances are slated for March 31, April 1, and April 2, 2011, at 7:30 P.M., and April 2, 2011, at 2:30 P.M. Mini-shows will be offered on March 28, 2011, for elementary and middle school students. Residents of Green Ridge Village are invited to attend the dress rehearsal on March 30, 2011.
- I. A Mini-Thon silent auction was held today. Mini-Thon activities are planned for March 25-26, 2011, including Family Feud, sports tournaments, talent show, dancing, games, food, Zumba, Wii, inflatables, Locks of Love, karaoke, speed dating, ping-pong, movies, swimming, water polo, pool contests, Jell-O wrestling, and a photo booth.
- J. All spring sports will compete for the first time of the season on Friday, March 25, 2011.
- K. Powder Puff preparations are underway.
- L. National Honor Society members are organizing an Easter egg hunt for community children in April.
- M. Big Spring will host Special Olympics activities at the swimming pool on March 28, 2011.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

### VI. TREASURER'S REPORT (Balances as of February 28, 2011)

General Fund	13,835,875.37
Cafeteria Fund	142,786.64
Student Activity Fund	166,688.00
Capital Projects	1,230,343.31
Newville Project	1,346,824.34

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

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Tuesday, March 22, 2010

### VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	302,527.08	Check #61560-61710
Cafeteria Fund	103,618.66	Check #5395-5412
Capital Projects	26,394.16	Check #559-560
Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund	20,054.23	Check #12539-12565

**Total 452,594.13**

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

### VIII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

### IX. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Tina Jones, April Messenger, and Sam Sheeler.

### X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was offered.

### 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-7,  
following Item A-7.)

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

##### 1. Substitute Cafeteria/Cashier

(ACTION ITEM)

The individual whose name is listed below is recommended to serve as a substitute cafeteria/cashier for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Lisa Newswanger**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Lisa Newswanger as presented.

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Tuesday, March 22, 2010

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

##### **(ACTION ITEM)**

2. **Mr. Scott Weyant**, girls' head basketball coach, submitted his letter of resignation as girls' head basketball coach.

A copy of Mr. Weyant's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mr. Weyant's resignation as girls' head basketball coach, as presented.

##### **(ACTION ITEM)**

3. **Mrs. Jacqueline Springer** Mount Rock Elementary teacher, requested one day leave without pay for April 4, 2011.

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."

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Springer's request for one day leave without pay as presented.

4. **Volunteer Coach**

##### **(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch, Athletic Director, recommended the individual listed below as a volunteer junior high track coach for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Mike Reifsnyder**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the recommendation of Mr. Reifsnyder as a volunteer junior high track coach for the 2010-2011 school year.

5. **Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Bethany Stanton**

##### **(ACTION ITEM)**

Mrs. Bethany Stanton, learning support teacher at Mount Rock Elementary School, requested leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act from approximately August 24, 2011, through January 3, 2012. 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. Stanton's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Bethany Stanton's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence from approximately June 6, 2011 through January 3, 2012 according to the terms of the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Tuesday, March 22, 2010

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

##### 6. 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.

**Melissa Biondo**

**Secondary Math Education**

**Kathy Line**

**Elementary Education**

**Leon Weyant**

**Business/Technology Education**

##### 7. Mount Rock Elementary School Quiz Bowl Coaches

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mrs. Heather Schwartzmiller and Mr. Phil Fassl were recommended to serve as Quiz Bowl Coaches for the 2010-2011 school year for the Mount Rock Elementary School Quiz Bowl Team.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mrs. Heather Schwartzmiller and Mr. Phil Fassl as Quiz Bowl Coaches for the 2010-2011 school year at Mount Rock Elementary School and establish their compensation for this position based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

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

Motion by Norris, seconded by Blasco to combine and approve XIII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-7, as outlined and recommended above.

Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, Lopp, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### B. Credit Pay

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The professional employee whose name is listed below has successfully completed graduate work and is entitled to the specified amount in accordance with the negotiated contract.

**Andrew Pettit**

**\$1,959.96**

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

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Tuesday, March 22, 2010

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### C. Proposed Updated Job Descriptions

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent, made some revisions to the job descriptions listed. A copy of the job descriptions was included with the agenda.

Food Service/Transportation Director  
Cafeteria Manager  
Food Service Custodian  
High School Counselor  
Middle School Counselor  
Elementary Counselor

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the job descriptions listed above as presented.

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

In response to a question from Director Blasco, Mr. Fry indicated that there were no significant changes made to the middle school counselor job description.

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

#### D. Resolution to Request Opposing Senate Bill 1

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors make a motion to approve the resolution to request opposing Senate Bill 1.

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

#### E. Planned Course Adoption

**(INFORMATION ITEM)**

Listed below is a completed planned course for board approval. All completed planned courses are available in the Curriculum Center for review by the Board of School Directors prior to the April 4, 2011 Board of School Directors meeting.

High School - Art  
Ceramics II

#### F. 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 were included with the agenda.

### XIV. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM

There were no future Board agenda items.

**XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. District Improvement Committee – Mrs. Lopp**

The March 17, 2011 District Improvement Committee meeting was postponed until April.

**B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

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

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

**D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

**E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered. The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 29, 2011.

**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. The CAIU Board will meet on Thursday, March 24, 2011.

**H. Tax Collection Committee (TCC) – Mr. Wolf**

A document has been drafted that might resolve the issue of the “merger” with West Shore Tax Bureau. The meeting to approve this document has not yet been scheduled.

**XVI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**A. 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate – District Comparisons**

Superintendent Fry indicated that the State’s new method of calculating a district’s graduation rate for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) through the “4-Year Graduation Cohort Rate” affects Big Spring by a decrease in the graduation rate of approximately 1 percent.

In response to a question from Director Barrick, Mr. Fry indicated that one of the changes in the calculation includes the fact that a student with an IEP who must be educated through Age 21 counts against a district in the calculation. Districts with more transient students are affected to a greater degree.

## Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Tuesday, March 22, 2010

### XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

#### A. 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate – District Comparisons (Continued)

This new calculation is the result of a demand from the federal government. The goal is “portability,” the ability to follow student achievement wherever that student may move so that the student does not “fall through the cracks.” The federal government wants to “take away the paintbrushes and have a clear-cut way of collecting data.”

The new calculation will set the baseline for future graduation comparisons. The new data cannot be compared to prior years.

Big Spring at this time exceeds the 85 percent threshold for the graduation rate required for AYP purposes.

#### B. Wizard of Oz and Auditorium Sound System

Mr. Fry invited everyone to attend the Wizard of Oz performances slated for March 31, April 1, and April 2, 2011, at 7:30, and April 2, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. Mini-shows will be offered on March 28, 2011, for elementary and middle school students. Residents of Green Ridge Village are invited to attend the dress rehearsal on March 30, 2011.

A sound consultant evaluated the amplification system in the high school auditorium and determined that many of the lapel and wireless microphones that have been added to the system over the years are not compatible with our system. Sound equipment will be rented for the musical and financed with the show's ticket sales.

#### C. Girls' Basketball Coach

Mr. Fry commended and thanked Mr. Scott Weyant, high school girls' basketball coach, who resigned after 14 years of dedicated service. For the past 10 years, Mr. Weyant traveled from his teaching position at Cedar Cliff to coach at Big Spring. Mr. Fry indicated that Mr. Weyant is a “good guy who made unbelievable sacrifices” for the girls' basketball team, and he noted that Mr. Weyant would be difficult to replace.

President Wolf asked that the administration write a letter to be signed by the Board members thanking Mr. Weyant for his years of service to the Big Spring School District.

#### D. Four Diamonds Mini-Thon

Mr. Fry encouraged Board members to support the Four Diamonds Mini-Thon on Friday-Saturday, March 25-26, 2011.

#### E. Elementary School Quiz Bowl

Mr. Fry invited everyone to attend the elementary school quiz bowl tournament on Saturday, March 26, 2011, at the middle school.

#### F. Face the State

Mr. Fry indicated that on Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at 7:30 P.M., he will represent public schools at Shippensburg University's Luhrs Center at “Face the State.” The event airs on television Sunday, March 27, 2011, at 11:00 A.M.



**XVII. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**A. Three Mile Island Anniversary and Drill**

Director Barrick indicated that Monday, March 28, 2011, is the 32<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the TMI accident. A table talk is scheduled for March 31, 2011, and our district will be involved in a live drill on April 12, 2011.

**B. School Presidents Forum**

President Wolf indicated that he attended recently a forum of school presidents where a hot topic of discussion was the HACC budget and participating school district financial contribution to that budget. Mr. Wolf noted that he is relieved Big Spring is not a part of this dilemma because participating districts are determining where they will get hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay the required fee.

**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 Blasco to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Blasco, Gutshall, Norris, Piper, Roush, 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: Monday, April 4, 2011**