Big Spring School District
Newville, Pennsylvania
Board Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

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1. Opening Meeting: Call to Order/Pledge

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 8:00 pm with nine (9) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Secretary; Frank Myers, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, Robert Over, Richard Roush, William Swanson, and Donna Webster

Absent: No absences

Others in attendance: Jeanne Temple, Interim Superintendent; Nicole Donato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Michael Statler, Business Manager; Chris Harris, Solicitor; Donna Minnich, Board Minutes; Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; and Darin Baughman, Technology Support.

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

2. Student/Staff Recognition and Board Reports

High School Principal, Mr. Jason Shover, described Benett Seiler and Peyton Weekley's accomplishments at the Technology Student Association competition which qualifies them to compete at the State Conference in April and the Board recognized them for their outstanding efforts and wished them success at their next level of competition.

Cailin Spies provided student activity updates to the Board.

President Wardle announced the Board met on February 7, 2023 in Executive session for personnel matters involving the discussion of the Superintendent position and contract.

3. Reading of Correspondence – Nothing offered

4. Recognition of Visitors - 64 visitors signed in for the meeting.

5. Public Comment Period

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

Arlene Reinford offered comments on new leadership and words of concern for curriculum and CRT.

Laura Mackey offered congratulations on choosing a new superintendent and comments on the news release of the recommended candidate.

Lawrence Flynn offered comments on student mental health concerns.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2023 as presented?

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

7. Financial Reports

7.a. Payment of Bills

General Fund	$	620,610.44
Special Revenue Fund	$	369.69
Capital Project Reserve Fund	$	87,525.99
Cafeteria Fund	$	140,933.57
Student Activities	$	5,947.25
Total	**$**	**855,386.94**

Motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented?

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Deihl
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

7.b. Treasurer's Fund Report

General Fund	$	28,224,468.74
Capital Project Reserve Fund	$	10,656,898.21
Cafeteria Fund	$	942,343.13
Student Activities	$	293,542.69
Total	**$**	**40,117,252.77**

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Fund Report and budget transfers as presented?

Motion by Mr. Myers was seconded by Mr. Deihl
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

7.c. YTD General Fund Report and YTD Taxes

The administration prepared the YTD General Fund Report and the YTD Taxes for the Board. The General Fund report looks at our revenue and expense for this year against the budget and compares those amounts to last year. The YTD Tax Summary shows the monthly collections and cumulative collections and compares that to the two previous years.

Motion to accept Year-To-Date General Fund and Tax Reports as submitted?

Motion by Mr. Deihl seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

8. Old Business – Nothing Offered

9. New Business Personnel Items - Actions Items

President Wardle announced unless there is an objection, we will combine New Business Personnel Items 9(a) - 9(c) into one motion.

9.a. Recommended Approval of Leave Requests

- Allison Baer, Mount Rock Elementary Administrative Assistant, is requesting a day of leave without pay on February 6, 2023.
- Alison Brown, Middle School Teacher, is requesting a half day of leave without pay on Wednesday, February 1, 2023.
- Bethany Stanton, Mount Rock Elementary Teacher, is requesting a day of leave without pay on February 3, 2023 and March 3, 2023.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the leave requests as presented.

9.b. Recommended Approval of the Spring Coaching Roster

A list of the spring extra-curricular coaching positions and recommended personnel has been prepared by Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, and reviewed by Stacy Lehman, Human Resources Coordinator. The 2022-2023 salaries established for these positions are based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the spring coaching roster as presented.

9.c. Recommended Approval of Athletic Staffing

Mr. Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, recommends the following staff:

- Olivia Monismith to serve as Co-Assistant Coach for JV Softball for the 2022-2023 season.
- Cory Mowery to serve as Assistant Coach for Middle School Girls Soccer for the 2022-2023 season.
- Margaret Murray to serve as Volunteer for the Track and Field Program.
- Michael Owen to serve as Volunteer for the Boys Soccer Program.
- Carly White to serve as Co-Assistant Coach for JV Softball for the 2022-2023 season.
- David Young to serve as Volunteer for the Track and Field Program.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the athletic staff as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush to combine New Business Personnel Items 9 (a) – 9 (c) into one motion.
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

9.d. Contract for Superintendent of Schools

It is recommended the Board of School Directors appoint Dr. Nicholas Guarente as Superintendent of Schools for a five-year term effective April 1, 2023 and approve the related Employment Contract.

Motion to approve an employment contract for Dr. Nicholas Guarente, to serve as Superintendent of Schools from April 1, 2023 through April 1, 2028 as presented?

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush and Mr. Piper called the roll for this vote.
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Mr. Wardle welcomed Dr. Guarente to Big Spring School District.

Dr. Guarente thanked everyone for coming tonight and thanked his family for supporting him. He said he looks forward to a collaborative partnership and is coming here because of what the staff, this Board and the community represents. He said his job is to come here and learn and then collaborate to make the District even better than it currently is. He stated he welcomes the challenge and looks forward to many years to come at Big Spring.

10. New Business - Actions Items

10.a. Credit Pay

The professional employees whose names are listed below have successfully completed graduate work and are entitled to the specified amount in accordance with the current contract between the Big Spring Educational Association, the Act 93 Agreement, and the Big Spring School District.

Matthew Kump	$1,650.00

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors authorize reimbursement for graduate credits as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.b. Recommended Approval of Utilization Requests

- Christian Witmer is requesting use of the High School Auditorium and Commons for the Musical on March 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2023. Because the dates involve a Sunday, Board action is necessary.
- Matt Bixler, on behalf of Hurricane Softball, is requesting use of the Oak Flat and Mount Rock Softball Fields March 6 through October 27, 2023. Because some of the dates involve Sundays, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the utilization requests as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.c. Recommended Approval of Capital Project Payments

The following invoices are for payment within the Capital Project Fund:

- EI Associates - $1,000 - Invoice 9358 - District Wide Feasibility Plan
- McClure Company - $2,115,900 - Invoice 1 - Summer 2023 ESCO Projects

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the invoices to be paid from the Capital Reserve Project Fund.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.d. Recommended Approval of Student Travel

High School Principal, Jason Shover, is requesting permission for two high school students and advisors to travel and participate in the following competition:

- Technology Student Association State Conference and Competition at Seven Springs Resort in Seven Springs, PA - April 19 - 21, 2023.

Middle School Principal, Clarissa Nace, is requesting permission for middle school students and advisors to attend the following:

- CDP FFA Meet State Officer Night at the Mechanicsburg Hoss's Restaurant - February 21, 2023
- FFA Greenwood High School Meal Packing Event - March 3, 2023

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the above listed travel and participation as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.e. Recommended Approval of Fundraiser

Mr. Scott Penner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, is requesting approval of the following fundraiser:

- Paint Night on March 16, 2023 in the High School Commons to benefit the High School Quill and Scroll Club.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the fundraiser as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

10.f. Recommended Approval of Project Proposals

Mr. Robert Krepps, Director of Technology, has reviewed 3 responses to a request for proposal for a new data cabling plant for the high school. The lowest cost proposal was submitted by Snyder Electric at a cost of $341,600. Snyder Electric has a proven record with the district completing various wiring projects in all of our buildings.

The Prismworks Bells, Clocks, PA Proposal has been reviewed by Mr. Robert Krepps, Director of Technology. This proposal replaces the existing High School Bells, Clocks, PA system installed when the HS was built. The new system leverages a centralized platform that was installed in all the other buildings during construction projects over the past 4 years at a cost of $157,905.50.

The administration recommends the Board of School Directors approve the proposals as presented.

Motion by Mr. Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

11. New Business - Information Item

11.a. New Story Tuition Agreement

New Story, LLC is a private licensed school within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that provides educational services to children with special education requirements. Dr. Abigail Leonard, Director of Student Services, has reviewed the student tuition agreement for a Big Spring student transferring to New Story during the 2022-2023 school year.

11.b. Proposed Job Descriptions

The administration has updated the job descriptions listed below:

- **111 Director of Student Services**
- **112 Supervisor of Special Education**
- **708 Seasonal Laborer**

After the job descriptions have been reviewed by the Board of School Directors and the administration, the updated job descriptions will be presented for Board approval at the March 6, 2023 Board meeting.

12. Board Reports

12.a. District Improvement Committee - Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Webster - Next Meeting: April 20, 2023

12.b. Athletic Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Myers, and Mr. Wardle – Next Mtg: March 16, 2023

12.c. Cumberland Perry Area Career and Technical Center - Mr. Piper and Mr. Wardle – Next Meeting: Feb. 28

12.d. Building and Property Committee - Mr. Over, Mr. Piper, Mr. Roush, and Mr. Wardle –Next Mtg: March 6, 2023

12.e. Finance Committee - Mr. Deihl, Mr. Over, Mr. Piper, and Mr. Myers – Next Meeting: March 20, 2023

12.f. South Central Trust - Mr. Deihl – Nothing offered

12.g. Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Mr. Swanson - Next Meeting: Feb. 23 at 8:00 am in Enola

12.h. Tax Collection Committee - Mr. Swanson - Nothing offered

12.i. Future Board Agenda Items – Nothing Offered

12.j. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Temple, Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Mrs. Temple highlighted two upcoming musical events:

The High School Musical, "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!" will be playing March 2, 3, and 4 at 7:00 pm and March 5 at 2:00 pm in the High School Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

There will be a Music in our Schools Concert on Tuesday, March 7 in the Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 pm featuring over 450 students from all levels with crowd pleasing musical performances by the 4th Grade Chorus, Elementary Jazz Band, 6th Grade Chorus, 7th and 8th Grade Band, and High School Band and Choir.

Mrs. Temple stated she had the good fortune to be with some Big Spring students who spoke to a room full of special education teachers and supervisors during a presentation at the CAIU featuring the Ship SAILS Program coordinated by high school teacher Mrs. Ashley Gleeson. Five of our 18-21 year old students stood before a room full of people and talked about their jobs and employment assignments at Shippensburg University and the impact it has had on their lives which was a heart-warming experience. She said 4 of the 5 students are now in paid internship work experiences and the program is providing amazing opportunities to our students.

13. Meeting Closing

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

Mr. Over thanked the administration and teachers for being here tonight and thanked them for all they do for our students. He also welcomed Dr. Guarente to Big Spring.

Mr. Fisher welcomed Dr. Guarente and said we're looking forward to having you here.

Mr. Swanson welcomed Dr. Guarente, his family, and said it was nice to see the FFA students at the meeting and thanked them for everything they do.

Mr. Deihl thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and congratulated Dr. Guarente.

Mr. Piper said Dr. Guarente is leaving an outstanding School District but coming to an even more outstanding School District filled with an enthusiastic staff and many outstanding people who we're very proud of and do a fantastic job. He said Dr. Guarente will have a very supportive community, excellent facilities, and a solid curriculum to start from.

Mr. Roush said welcome aboard and we're happy to have you join us to Dr. Guarente.

Mr. Myers stated he is happy to see staff and good folks who have learned to be Ever, Always Strong and he's anxious to see how long it takes Dr. Guarente to be Ever, Always Strong.

Mrs. Webster welcomed Dr. Guarente to Big Spring and stated she hopes he enjoys his time here.

Mr. Wardle said we are a team and your Board and we're here to serve the community. He said time is precious and it is important for all of us to give 100% to our students every day which is what they need for a good education to develop the social skills and have an opportunity to grow so they can also become a graduate. He said Dr. Guarente is our new leader and we look to him for guidance, support, cheering us on and sometimes telling us how we can do better. He said Dr. Guarente's talents and skill are very valuable and we're lucky to have him and welcomed him to Big Spring.

13.b. Adjournment

Motion by Deihl was seconded by Mr. Roush
Voting Yes: Deihl, Fisher, Myers, Over, Piper, Roush, Swanson, Wardle, and Webster
Motion Carried unanimously. 9-0

Meeting adjourned at **8:42 pm**, **February 21, 2023**

Next scheduled meeting is **March 6, 2023**

William L. Piper