

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2025



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1. Call to Order - President John Wardle

The Buildings and Property Committee of the Big Spring Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 6:00 pm with seven (7) Board of School Directors present: John Wardle, President; Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Lisa Shade, Treasurer; Julie Boothe, Secretary; Seth Cornman, Kenneth Fisher, and Robert Over.

Absent: David Fisher and Frank Myers

Others in attendance: Nicholas Guarente, Superintendent; Nadine Sanders, Assistant Superintendent; Cristy Lentz, Business Manager; Thomas Breth; Solicitor (Virtual), Rob Krepps, Director of Technology; Darin Baughman, Technology, and Donna Minnich, Board Minutes

2. Public Comment – Nothing Offered

3. Presentation:

3.a. Update to the 2025 - 2026 Summer Projects - Cristy Lentz, Business Manager

Mrs. Lentz provided a 2025 – 2026 Summer Project Update to the Board.

Mr. Wardle thanked Mrs. Lentz and said if we don't move the press box, we're looking at approximately \$800,000 coming out of the capital reserve funds for these projects and Mrs. Lentz said that is correct.

Mr. Over asked how many security cameras would be replaced and Mr. Krepps said the number could vary. He said an average camera costs \$1,200 but a zoom capable camera can

be as much as \$2,200. He said they would do an analysis of which cameras are intended to be replaced and cap it at a cost of \$50,000 to replace as many as possible in as many places as possible.

Mr. Over asked if the Newville Elementary speaker system is as simple as unplugging and plugging in a new one and Mr. Krepps said essentially, but there are speakers in every classroom and all common spaces. Mr. Over was concerned the price seemed high and Mr. Krepps said it is his best estimate at this point. Mr. Hippensteel asked why we need to replace speakers every 6 years and what goes bad in them. Mr. Krepps said they are IP speakers so they play with network speakers and are managed from one central location and said the recommended replacement cycle is 6 years. Mr. Hippensteel asked if all speakers are currently working and this is just a maintenance replacement and Mr. Krepps said that is correct. Mrs. Boothe said if a specific speaker goes bad, couldn't that be done during the school year and Mr. Krepps said he would have to purchase 1 or 2 speakers which would go against the general budget rather than the maintenance budget and said this is an opportunity for a technology refresh. President Wardle asked if the speakers hear and are capable to talk back from a classroom and Mr. Krepps confirmed that is correct. Mr. Hippensteel asked if there were phones in the classroom for speaking and Mr. Krepps said yes. Mr. Cornman asked if the speakers have firmware attached to them that could pose a security risk and Mr. Krepps said they are not a network security issue but could fail to provide the ability for teachers and students to hear announcements. Mr. Krepps said we are able to do the labor inhouse and our technology staff would hook them up.

Mr. Over said he understands a desire to upgrade the press box but doesn't understand the cost. Dr. Guarente said we are working from the last numbers we entertained which were several years ago. Mr. Hippensteel said we need to establish an accurate cost to move the press box to the home side which he would like to see happen. He said the current press box is in bad condition and almost a safety issue but we would have to move forward with engineering for updated estimates and future discussion.

Mr. Over asked if the sewer line is being patched or if we would be replacing the whole line and Dr. Guarente said he understood it is replacing the whole line but he would double check to be sure. Mr. Over asked for a cost on fixing rather than replacing the sewer line and Dr. Guarente said we could provide that.

Mr. Over asked if the sidewalk repair figure was based on one or more estimates and Mrs. Lentz said she could find out from Mr. Drawbaugh if other estimates were secured. Mr. Over said he would like to see other estimates. Dr. Guarente said the estimates are through Costars so an outside bidder would be competing against state contracts.

Mr. Hippensteel asked when the last time the high school parking lot was sealcoated and Dr. Guarente said the work was budgeted for last year but was deferred to this year because of other summer work interfering with access. Mr. Hippensteel asked if the sealcoating project is preventative maintenance and wondered when this was last done and Dr. Guarente said we can look into that.

Mr. Hippensteel questioned the lighting work for the district office and asked if we are updating existing lights and adding 8 more and Mrs. Lentz said she will have to get clarification and get back to him. Mr. Hippensteel said electric companies offer lighting incentive upgrades for businesses and suggested someone look into the possibility of what might be available to us and Mrs. Lentz said she could check on that also.

President Wardle said as we move forward, more details will come to the Board maybe as early as the next meeting.

Mrs. Shade asked for the timeframe of our eligibility for grants to help with some of the project costs and Mrs. Lentz said we do have the PCCD grant for the cellular signal project and other grants are possible but it would be a June/July timeframe.

4. Other Items – Nothing Offered

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Cornman was seconded by Mrs. Shade
Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, K. Fisher, Hippensteel, Over, Shade, and Wardle
Motion Carried unanimously. 7-0

Meeting Adjourned at **6:27 pm**

