



Big Spring School District

Newville, Pennsylvania

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2025

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1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Seth Cornman

The Policy Committee of the Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring Middle School Auditorium at 6:30 pm with three (3) Committee Members present: Chairman Seth Cornman, Secretary Julie Boothe, and President John Wardle and Board of School Directors present: Michael Hippensteel, Vice-President; Lisa Shade, Treasurer; Kenneth Fisher, and Robert Over.

Absent: David Fisher

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.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle to approve the meeting agenda

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Community Comment – Rosie McCrea questioned the agenda item pertaining to an athletic policy and asked how policy topics are decided and if Mr. Penner was consulted or if this is a general work session and Mr. Cornman confirmed it is a general work session to discuss policies and no work has been done beforehand on an athletic policy.

Policy Work

Mr. Cornman reviewed Policy 903 suggestions from the solicitor. Mr. Wardle said he believes the 3 minute time limit is enough time and allows more people to speak. Policy 903 changes were discussed.

Motion to implement solicitor changes and the adjustments discussed by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Policy Work (continued)

Mr. Cornman reviewed Policy 235 suggestions from the solicitor. Mr. Wardle questioned the change of parent permission and expressed concern for student mental health screening and said he is worried about the kids. Chairman Cornman and Mrs. Boothe said we need to follow state and federal laws about parent consent with sensitivity to 8 areas of protected information requiring express written parental consent. Mr. Over said if we get this wrong, shame on us. Dr. Oldham was in attendance and his opinion was consulted and he confirmed surveys are a universal screening tool that are helpful to school counselors.

Motion to implement the solicitor changes and ask for solicitor feedback on collecting sensitive information by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Motion to table the remaining agenda items to the next meeting by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

~~New Athletic Policy~~ (discussion tabled)

~~Policy 105.1~~ (discussion tabled)

~~Information Items~~ (discussion tabled)

Community Comment – Lara Kauffman encouraged the Board to review a letter from April 2020 from the Department of Education titled The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regarding student privacy which discusses the use of passive consent for surveys administered by schools and directly speaks to the 8 areas of protected information which PDE says can be surveyed with passive consent and offered to e-mail a copy of the letter to each Board Member.

Member Closing Statements

Mr. Wardle said he appreciates the discussion of these policy topics and thanked Mr. Cornman and Mrs. Boothe for their insight.

Mrs. Boothe referenced the policies that have not been reviewed in recent years and said she will be providing Mr. Cornman with that list for planning purposes and said they should be addressed as soon as possible.

2. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Boothe was seconded by Mr. Wardle

Voting Yes: Boothe, Cornman, Wardle

Motion Carried unanimously. 3-0

Meeting adjourned at **7:15 pm**

