

SYNOPSIS
URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT 116
BOARD OF EDUCATION
STUDY SESSION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

Board discussion covered the gamut last night, from budgets to walking to school:

“Walk to School Day” is Wednesday, October 5. This is the 2nd annual event in Urbana-Champaign and Champaign-Urbana MTD is doing the organizing. Cynthia Hoyle presented some amazing numbers about children walking to school:

- 34 percent of students living within one mile of school walk or bike, compared to 90 percent in 1969.
- 26 percent of morning traffic is school-related.
- Since the overall decline of physical activity in children, there has been an increase in obesity, Type II diabetes, asthma, and pedestrian injuries.

CUMTD has various programs for schools, kids, and parents to be involved in Walk to School Day. Parents can walk with their kids and fill out a survey, then the kids get a prize for turning in the survey. In areas where there might not be good walking routes or unsafe sidewalks, classrooms are invited to walk to a local park together, or even the school track. Teachers can organize a “walking school bus” event.

CUMTD has planning literature and interested administrators and/or teachers can contact Cynthia Hoyle at 278.7059 or 384.8488. The event is co-sponsored by the Urbana Police Department, Urbana Park District, SAFEKIDS Coalition, and Carle Foundation.

The two required public hearings regarding adoption of the Urbana School District and Urbana Adult Education budgets were held last night without any input from the public. Business/Finance Director Carol Baker covered her budget assumptions and summary with the board and final approval of the budget will come at the September 20 business meeting. The school district continues to pay back an education fund deficit that began three years ago, but while we continue to hold up the education fund balances, the transportation and IMRF funds are showing projected shortfalls. Carle is now paying real estate taxes, due to a court decision several years ago in Kankakee regarding the tax-exempt status of some hospitals, but those funds must be held in escrow until all the appeals and legalities are resolved, which means we can't spend any of the money. On the upside, if the school district is allowed to use that money, we would have a balanced budget.

The board also heard a short report on the 67 new laws passed by the 94th Illinois General Assembly and possible impacts on the school district. Most of the issues are curriculum-related and administrators and committees are working to implement the required changes. A list of the legislation may be found at <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/> and over on the right, under “Hot Topics and Resources,” click on **Legislation**.