

**MINUTES
STUDY SESSION
URBANA BOARD OF EDUCATION
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER
January 3, 2006
7:30 P.M.**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Joyce Hudson, President
Mr. John Dimit, Vice-President
Mr. Mark Netter, Secretary
Ms. Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary Pro Tem
Ms. Cope Cumpston, Board Member
Ms. Benita Rollins-Gay, Board Member
Mr. Steve Summers, Board Member

Also Present: Dr. Gene Amberg, Superintendent
Dr. Preston Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities
Ms. Carmelita Thomas, Director of Human Resources

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS

5.0 CALL FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING/SESSION (After Current Meeting)

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Fisher moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS

8.0 POLICY REVIEW

9.0 ACTION ITEMS (If necessary, consent/individual)

10.0 STUDY TOPIC(S)

10.01 City Perspective: An Update

Bruce Walden, City of Urbana, gave an updated report on the tax base loss and TIF issues.

The following is a synopsis by Kathy Wallig, District Public Relations Coordinator:

Walden's first presentation was five years ago, when the UI's development into "private enterprise" was still a glint in their eyes. Today it's a reality and it's affecting our income tremendously—and not for the good.

The school district has lost millions of dollars in revenue due to UI expansion in the South and North Campus areas. The Gregory Place development in Central Campus is not quite the hole in our pocket, in that property contains retails which puts some change in the coffers of public entities. However, the crux of the matter is that UI expansion continues to be to the east, and it's Urbana that continues to be the "host" of the campus growth.

Walden estimates it will take \$150 million in development to begin to make up for the erosion of our tax base and for the continued loss of those tax parcels from our income. He said we need to take our own case to the UI. While Walden emphasized our local economy certainly needs everything the UI has to offer, it's not our entire local economy that pays the price for what the UI takes away.

Efforts last spring and summer to pass a legislative agreement that basically shares the joys and the pain of UI expansion and development were unsuccessful. Walden says this is the time, with the strong leadership of President Joseph White and Chancellor Richard Hermann, to focus resolution of these issues with the UI Board of Trustees.

Board member Cope Cumpston questioned Walden about input in President White’s strategic plan, which is in process right now. She thought community input on the topic would be essential to the plan, especially since White spoke to our staff in August about the importance of quality schools in attracting faculty to the university. Walden isn’t aware of the strategic plan, nor has he been asked for input.

10.02 Urbana High School Graduation Requirements

Members of the UHS administrative team discussed the impacts of the new State high school graduation requirements.

The following is a synopsis by Kathy Wallig, District Public Relations Coordinator:

While UHS graduation requisites have generally been above and beyond the state requirements, the new laws (effective with this year’s freshman class) call for implementation of specific classes, where before the subject matter could be covered within a more general class. Writing this synopsis and putting this extremely complicated subject in black/white is doing this issue an injustice. The overall impacts are that these new requirements will cost us thousands of (unfunded) dollars, will most likely lead to the addition of either a “zero” hour or 9th period and flex time scheduling for high school staff, we’ll see some high failure rates among our high school students, and the 60 percenters—the college-bound with good grades and the need to take electives in order to meet college requirements—may be short-changed on a well-rounded education because there simply aren’t enough hours in a day to provide *everything*.

11.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

12.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President Dimit moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.

President Hudson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

President

Secretary