

MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER
February 21, 2006
7:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:34 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

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

Absent: Mr. Steve Summers, Board Member

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AGENDA

One modification was made to the agenda: Item 11.05 was made a first reading/report - changed to Item 10.03.

4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS

Ms. Kathleen Hansen, 2nd Grade Teacher at Wiley Elementary, spoke to the board about her concerns regarding district class sizes. Her class has seventeen students currently and sees a real difference in how a smaller class size works. She sees other schools at their maximum and high need students. She sees the need to look at some over impacted schools in the district. How can the class sizes be more balanced across the district?

5.0 CALL FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING/SESSION (AFTER CURRENT MEETING)

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve the agenda as modified, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.

7.0 COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

The following Urbana Middle Schools students were winners for the University of Illinois' Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest: Cody Bralts-Steindl, Terrish Catchings, Kashala McCain. Honorable Mention: Teri Groce, Rachel Beck, Taloya Walker, Alanna Pomes, Katarina Marjanovic, Heather Gernenz, Catherine Cruikshank.

The following students placed into the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Band in Peoria: Janet Czys, Andrew Deal, and Oliver Swann. Students placed in the IMEA Honors Band: Elise Nieman, Emily Ward, Lucy Barnes, Christina Byrne, and Alex Chin. Molly Netter participated in the IMEA Jazz Choir. She was selected and featured as one of the soloists in piece with the entire choir during the IMEA Jazz Concert. Molly also place in three of the composition categories in the IMEA Composition Contest.

Parents of Anne Broom's (retired 2005) students collected money to buy books in her name as a thank you for her teaching. Anne in return had a special viewing of the books selected for the "Anne Broom Social Justice Book Fund" at Leal Elementary.

8.0 SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS

10.0 REPORTS

10.01 Urbana Alumni Association

On behalf of the Urbana Alumni Association, Dick Wyniger and C.K. Gunsalus presented this year's grants to the recipients before the Board of Education. To the present date - the Urbana Alumni Association has given \$528,00 to Urbana Schools to help support the activities.

Nancy Clinton/UMS: purchase an amplifier for the gym - \$8,000

Raul Gaston/UMS: projector/cabinet and other miscellaneous supplies for the mulitpurpose room - \$1,470

UHS Math Club: support to each of the four UHS students that have been invited to attend ARML contest in the spring.

Gary Apfelstadt/UMS: funding 1/3 of the total cost of a robotics tournament at Urbana High School.

Willie Taylor/UHS Track: funding for new uniforms for the girls and boys track team.

Student Senate/UHS: support the annual Thanksgiving Dinner

10.02 EEOC Annual Report

Ms. Carmelita Thomas presented the Annual EEOC Report to the Board of Education. The challenges stated were teachers retiring and replacing these knowledgeable teacher with quality candidates. The minority teacher pool is very shallow, along with the administrative pool.

The district started a “Grow Your Own” program in 2002, a partnership with the Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee. The district agreed to match scholarship funds (\$1,000) for an Urbana High School student. This has happened for the last three years. Ms. Thomas has seen this student come back in the summer and then hired her for teaching assistant positions during the summer. This teacher is now a graduate of Eastern Illinois University, and teaching at Prairie Elementary as a long-term sub. This is just one example of working to get more quality minority staff on board.

One of the key elements of success for recruitment is on the personal side. Developing relationships with potential candidates is extremely important, talking, listening, answering questions being important as well. Showing support before they begun the application process is a very important way to show them the district is sincerely interested in them.

Damion Howard/Special Education Teacher/UHS: He is the first year teacher, just graduating from the University of Illinois. He student taught and felt supported by the administrative staff and regular staff. He thought that the transition into a full-time teacher at Urbana would be really smooth and efficient for him.

Cheryl Camacho/1st Grade Teacher/King: Cheryl came from Atlanta Public School System - really enjoying working with Urbana. She had several job offers - but the thing that helped her decide to take the Urbana position was the warmth she received during the interview process. Also the commitment that was expressed regarding the low income students. Urbana has a reputation as letting the teachers really teach and giving them freedom in the classroom.

Nechelle Turner/4th Grade Teacher/King: She felt it was a pleasure being offered a position in Urbana and teaching at the school where she attended. She was able to see change, be involved in change, and enjoy the changes that have been made.

10.03 First Reading of the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 School Calendars

Administration presented the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school calendars for the first reading. Approval will be requested at the March 7th, Board of Education study session.

11.0 ACTION ITEMS (Consent)

Secretary Netter moved to approve the consent action items, seconded by Member Fisher. On a roll call vote, all members present voted "aye". Motion passed. Absent: S.Summers

11.01 Minutes

Business Meeting, January 17, 2006
Joint Study Session w/Urbana Park District, February 7, 2006
Study Session, February 21, 2006

11.02 February Bills/Checks

Education Fund bill.....	\$1,003,374.83
Operating & Maintenance Fund bills.....	\$ 148,549.01
Bond & Interest Fund bills.....	\$ 522.50
Transportation Fund bills.....	\$ 176,613.73
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund bills.....	\$ 65,936.95
Construction Fund bills.....	\$ 0.00
Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds.....	\$ 715.00
Fire Prevention and Safety (Levy).....	\$ 3,995.00
Payroll.....	\$2,210,491.57
Adult Education Bills.....	\$ 129,901.68

11.03 Interfund Loans

The following interfund loans will be required to cover the necessary operating costs of the school district until the next meeting of the Board of Education.

Working Cash Fund to Education Fund	\$2,000,000
Working Cash Fund to Operating and Maint. Fund	\$ 450,000

11.04 Personnel Items

Approval of various personnel items were requested.

Noted: Laura Taylor was named the new UHS Principal, and Pam VanWallegeran will be retiring at the end of the 2005-2006 school year with twenty-three years of service.

11.05 Approval of the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 School Calendars

Administration will request approval of the 2007-2008 school calendar.
Moved to #10.03

11.06 Disposal of Obsolete/Irreparable Equipment

Administration requested approval to dispose of obsolete/irreparable computer hardware.

12.0 ACTION ITEMS (Individual)

12.01 Gifts

David Wilcox, Urbana, donated books to the Urbana High School drama program, valued at \$121. This gift was then matched by a program offered by Motorola.

Manufacturing/Industrial Tech Department, Parkland College, donated a welder (\$500) to the Urbana High School welding shop.

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve and accept the above gifts, seconded by Member Cumpston. Motion passed.

13.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

14.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President Dimit moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Secretary Netter. On a roll call vote, all members present voted "aye". Motion passed.

Absent: S. Summers

President Hudson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

President

Secretary