

SYNOPSIS
URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT 116
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUSINESS MEETING
May 16, 2006

It was a grand night for singing...and art...and books...

The Urbana High School chorus, fresh from an appearance at Carnegie Hall, performed for the board and a packed audience. The students sang three songs, each of a different variety, but they brought down the house with their rendition of "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," (*Queen*).

The elementary fine arts staff presented an update on the terrific things K-5 students have been doing this year, and some of their artwork was "loaned" to the Board of Education in an annual tradition. (Pieces of elementary art are framed and hung throughout Central Office for one year, then returned to the students.) During the annual report to the board, Elementary Fine Arts Coordinator Betty Allen discussed Illinois State Learning Standards and how they are tied to our art programs and not only in the fine arts curriculum, but throughout other content areas as well.

The school district librarians gave their annual report to the board. In a brief skit, Urbana High School librarian Matt Murrey (with an antiquated movie projector) and Prairie Elementary School librarian Amy Lingafelter (with a laptop and LED projector) demonstrated how much technology is changing in school libraries, therefore our library needs are changing as well. On the upside, the Urbana Rotary Club is giving \$15,000 over the next two years to help our libraries with the replacement of obsolete equipment with DVD players, DVD's, CD's, database software, and other needed items.

Two groups made grant presentation to members of our staff. The Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation awarded a total of \$17,531 this year to: Kathy Maniates, Leal; Kay Grabow, Thomas Paine; Bob Smith, Prairie; Sarah Cardiff, Urbana High; Andrew Wilk, Urbana High; Katie Bridges, Urbana Middle; Deb Newell, Thomas Paine; Lilly Jimenez, WEC; Laura Thomson, Prairie; Patrick Zimmerly, Urbana Middle; and Alexis Jones, Prairie.

The Urbana Alumni Association announced its 2nd round of grants for this school year, totaling \$8,638. Those grant recipients are Laura Taylor, Urbana High; Kevin Helmick and Gary Apfelstadt, Urbana Middle, and Martha Rinne, Urbana Middle. The UAA's practice is to award half of the cost of a project, but they made an exception for Urbana Middle School teacher Diane Meister. In presenting the grant awards, C. K. Tina Gunsalus said Meister was always willing to help out the UAA in any capacity she could and she was awarded 100 percent of her grant program cost.

The board passed two very important policies. One is the Curriculum for Physical Development and Health, and the second is the Wellness Policy. The curriculum committee went back to work on the former after the policy first reading in January and significant community input in some areas of the content. The Wellness Policy is a requirement of any school district participating in the federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program. There are recommendations in that document that apply to teachers and classroom activities and more information will be available next fall when you all return.

*Coming up: Sunday, May 28, UHS Commencement at UI Assembly Hall;
Monday, May 29, Memorial Day (no school); Friday, June 2, last official day of school.*