

**MINUTES
STUDY SESSION
URBANA BOARD OF EDUCATION
CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME
GERBER SCHOOL
1301 NORTH CUNNINGHAM
URBANA, IL 61801
June 6, 2006
7:00 p.m.**

*Prior to the call to order - there was a tour of
the Cunningham Children's Home facilities.
Meeting will start immediately after the tour.*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Joyce Hudson, President
Mr. John Dimit, Vice-President (7:56 p.m.)
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
Ms. Carol Baker, Director of Business
Ms. Susan Baker-Ory, Director of Special Services
Mr. Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities
Ms. Carmelita Thomas, Director of Human Resources

3.0 ADDITIONAL, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

The call for an executive session has been cancelled.

4.0 CITIZEN STATEMENTS

Steve Ross, parent, 609 West Green Street, Urbana, spoke to the Board of Education regarding the request for elementary schools early release time. He is opposed to having the students out more class time. He feels there is already a need for students to have more class time - not less.

Connie Minnes, representing a group of retired 116 teachers, 3307 Douglas Woods Drive, Urbana, spoke to the Board of Education about the rate of pay for retired district teachers as they substitute in the district. She requested that the rate of pay be increased to \$125 per day for retired employees. The group believe this is a fair wage for the education of Urbana District 116 students.

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

There will be an executive session for the purpose of personnel. ~~Cancelled~~

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Summers moved to approve the modified agenda, seconded by Member Cumpston. Motion passed.

7.0 RECOGNITIONS

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS

8.01 Gerber School/Cunningham Children's Home Report

Sandy Cooper, Principal of Gerber School, and Sam Banks, President/CEO of Cunningham Children's Home, facilitated a presentation/report to the Board of Education.

CEO Sam Banks gave a recap of how Urbana Schools and Cunningham Children's Home came to work together to educate the children that lived there. A short history was given to the Board of Education about the understanding both the district and Cunningham have of one another and the importance to grow together.

Sandy Cooper, Principal of Gerber School on the grounds of Cunningham Children's Home spoke about the make-up of the students and staff at Gerber. The students ages vary, with most students eligible for special services. The Orphanage Act is utilized as a flow-through program. Students that attend Gerber may also attend public school on a full or part time basis.

Glenn Carter, Dean of Students, spoke about different strategies that have been used in the years to the present time. Current issues they face are safety issues. As time passes - more direct attention is needed to address the concerns for student and faculty safety. Example: a code "one" means that six to seven staff should arrive within 10 seconds to help with the current crisis.

Jean Ward, Teacher, talk about the changing classroom students. One day she may have 3rd and 4th graders then in comes a 1st grader. This means all curriculum needs to shift to be able to educate the 1st grader. If the classroom size numbers are up - then one of her older students will have to

make an adjustment to another classroom teacher. The teachers at Gerber School align their curriculum with public schools as best they can with the challenges they see everyday. Their goal is to have a curriculum map for each student and have that map move with the student as needed.

Vern Fein, Teacher, gave a review of how the Vocational Technology program began at Gerber School. He is proud to say that the program has really come a long way from the beginning. Getting students out in the public working with community is a great tool for their success. Having a strong Vocational Technology Program is key for the students success.

8.02 K - 8 Social Studies Curriculum Guide Update

Kathy Barbour presented the Board of Education a copy of the revised/updated K-8 Social Studies Curriculum Guide. Approval of the guide will be requested at the June 20, 2006, Business Meeting.

Kathy went over some of the changes made to the curriculum guide. Noting on page three - the links within the curriculum from one grade level to another.

9.0 ACTION ITEMS (If necessary, consent/individual)

9.01 Personnel Items

Approval of various personnel items were requested.

Secretary Netter moved to approve item #9.01, seconded by Vice-President Dimit. Motion passed.

9.02 Confirmation of the 2006 Urbana High School Graduates

Approval of the official certified copy of the 2006 Urbana High School graduation class was requested.

Member Rollins-Gay moved to approve item #9.02, seconded by Member Fisher. Motion passed. Congratulations went out to all graduates.

9.03 Discussion and Approval of Early Release Schedule for Elementary Schools

Elementary Principals requested Board of Education approval of the proposed early release schedule.

Member Rollins-Gay said she continually sees staff members at their schools hours before and after school is in session. Member Rollins-Gay felt that the teachers deserved this extra time for collaboration and planning. She would like the Board of Education to “give” something back.

Secretary Netter would like to know how this will be shown as a positive move in upcoming years?

Vice-President Dimit has a problem with this request. The sticking point he feels is a three minute addition to the other school days to make up for this instructional time missed. Neither side wants to budge. If this passes - he requests attendance stats/reports for these "full-days". Vice-President Dimit will vote yes if three minutes are added to the end of the other days - he will be voting no if minutes are not added.

Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that if three minutes were to be added to the end of the other days - it involves contract language change. Under the current contract there is no room to add three minutes.

Superintendent Amberg ask for early release for the second semester of the 2006-2007 school year. However, talk about the contract language during the next collective bargaining exchange (Spring 2007).

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve proposal so discussion could take place, seconded by Secretary Netter. Motion passed.

President Hudson gave the chair to Secretary Netter.

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve an amended proposal, adding three minutes to the other days, seconded by Member Hudson. Motion denied: two "aye" (Hudson, Dimit), five "nay" (Netter, Fisher, Cumpston, Summers, Rollins-Gay).

President Hudson took the chair back from Secretary Netter.

Member Cumpston doesn't believe we can ask for three minutes without impact bargaining.

Secretary Netter wants to avoid impact bargaining. Secretary Netter is in favor of reviewing all levels of early release (secondary and elementary). Review in two years with discussion of length of school day and calendar year.

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve an amended proposal, having early release time for only the 2006-2007 school year, seconded by Secretary Netter: Motion denied: three "aye" (Summers, Hudson, Dimit), four "nay" (Cumpston, Fisher, Rollins-Gay, Netter).

Member Cumpston does not want this linked to bargaining.

Vice-President Dimit moved to support the proposal as presented amending that it be reviewed at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, seconded by Secretary Netter. Motion passed: six "aye" (Hudson, Dimit, Netter, Cumpston, Rollins-Gay, Summers), one "nay" (Fisher).

This will be in effect while contract negotiations are taking place and will be a topic of discussion during this time.

Further discussion:

Member Fisher is concerned about day care for the younger students that will be out of school and have no older siblings at home to take care of them.

Vice-President Dimit feels that instructional time is very important and he is not willing to lose anymore. This statement is also how Member Summers and Secretary Netter feels. With NCLB - kids need to be in the classroom learning rather than getting out early.

10.0 STUDY TOPIC(S)

10.01 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Update

Dr. Preston Williams facilitated a curriculum, instruction and assessment presentation/update to the Board of Education.

After a PowerPoint presentation - Deputy Superintendent stated that the efforts from those in the district - the district is closer to where we need to be.

10.02 FY07 Tentative Budget Review and Update

The Board of Education discussed the FY07 budget add-ons and possible put-backs.

A straw poll vote was made to put back: summer curriculum writing work - \$4,500 (new for the UHS grad requirement), spanish bilingual teacher and supplies - compliance issue) - \$55,000 at UMS, restore the UHS summer school clerical position (120 hrs) - \$1,400, and additional supplies for UHS vocational expansion (welding and electronics) \$3,000.

All board members were in favor of the above put backs. All members were present.

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 Secretary Netter. Motion passed.

President Hudson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.