

MINUTES
Urbana School District
Board of Education
Work Session
Jean F. Burkholder
Administrative Service Center
5:30 p.m.
February 15, 2006

1.0 Call to Order

President Hudson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Joyce Hudson, President
Mr. John Dimit, Vice-President
Mr. Mark Netter, Secretary
Ms. Cope Cumpston, Board Member
Ms. Ruth Ann Fisher, Board Member

Also Present: Dr. Gene Amberg, Superintendent
Dr. Preston Williams, Deputy Superintendent

Absent: Ms. Benita Rollins-Gay, Board Member
Mr. Steve Summers, Secretary Pro Tem

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Member Cumpston moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Secretary Netter. Motion passed.

4.0 **General Overview/Outline of the District Curriculum Guide for Physical Development/Health (PD/H)**

Jean Korder, Craig Huff, and Randy Blackman, members of the curriculum committee gave a brief description about the curriculum being a “guide” not a lock step curriculum or guide. There is a lot left up to the teacher for what to teach and how to teach it. This curriculum was aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards. General guidelines for content and skills were provided. This is in compliance with the state code. It was designed for the district’s current situation (personnel, instructional time, facilities, resources). The Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School are undergoing ongoing professional development and Curriculum mapping activities. The P.E. departments will finish their guidelines by the end of the year with a consensus on the content skills and common assessment that will be used in all of our P.E. classes and Health classes as well. She stated that any additional resources that can be added to the guide are more than welcome to be included.

There was no timeline given for finishing/approving this curriculum guide. The committee has completed their work as charged. It was done on a volunteer basis.

It was noted that at Urbana High School has lost over the last 15 years minutes in instructional time due to NCLB, passing periods, scheduling changes.

Public comments were then heard:

- 1) **Julie Pryde** and **Bari Rothbaum** from the Department of Public Health discussed areas of their expertise.

Julie was concerned mostly about how the students can get information regarding infectious diseases. Students she talks with - don’t have the knowledge that she feels they should have regarding STD’s and such. They need to have the knowledge on how to protect themselves. The students need to get hooked up with local resources. She then gave some activity stats from the City of Urbana residents. She showed the board a binder (portable library) that is/will be available to the school district. It could be placed in health classrooms. She would like to see the curriculum cover more infectious diseases and what they are/mean. Another concern to her was no mention of contraception. This information needs to be given to the students.

Bari - caseworker with the Teen Parent Services - discussed her concerns about the number of pregnant/parenting teens in Urbana. The numbers are down - but she feels these numbers will increase if the students are not taught about contraception. As she talks with Urbana students - the students tell her that they wish they would have been taught about ovulation, they felt rushed when sex was covered in their health class, they stressed how difficult it is to take care of a child, the student’s mom talked with her but it would have been better to come from the school. Bari supports having a comprehensive sex education curriculum for the purpose of helping students realize what is out there and can happen if they aren’t “protected”.

- 2) Kim Price and Lisa Searing, Campaign for Comprehensive Sex Education shared their thoughts with the board of education.

Kim and Lisa both spoke about the importance of best practices and how contraceptives need to be stressed to the students. They are not in favor of an abstinence only curricula. They feel that most teens that have an STD's - don't even realize it - they don't know what's going on with their body or where to go to get help. They have a problem with Project Reality and the non-accurate information that is used with the program.

They gave the board a list of proposed changes they made to the curriculum guide along with some resources they'd like to see added to the current list.

- 3) Kristin Solberg, parent, has concern's with when and what is being taught to the students. She would like to see students learn about their bodies at an earlier age than stated in the curriculum guide. The vision statement holds true to her - however the philosophy doesn't mention sex education.
- 4) Amy Tomaszewski, parent, feels that there should be more information taught/given to the students to help them understand their bodies better. It's either they learn it from a teacher or friends, in the back seat, etc. It is safer if this is something taught in the classroom.
- 5) Ben Grosser, community member, reiterated what was already said regarding abstinence. He view is that everyone gets enrolled in driver's ed but not everyone has a car - everyone has a body, he'd like the district to enroll the student's to learn about how their body works.
- 6) Dr. Kim Glow, School Based Health Center, was impressed as she read through the curriculum and thought that the committee had done a wonderful, thorough job. There could be more resources added. She gave the stat that one out of every five students that enters the health center tested positive for an STD. This number is more than likely higher because not all students come to the center. She feels that the middle school age students should be hit hard with comprehensive sex ed. Students are becoming more sexually active at a younger age and it is beneficial to teach this information to the students. Resources are emphasized by Dr. Glow - this is a district with many local resources, including the School Based Health Center.
- 7) John Taylor, parent, has been extremely happy as he has put two students through the Urbana School District, and has one currently in the district. He was very frank and said "if it doesn't happen at school, it doesn't happen." With his knowledge - parenting is not going to get any better anytime soon. This information needs to be given to the students by school personnel. Contraception is something that needs to be addressed and discussed with students.

Board discussion:

Secretary Netter: What does the School Code have to say about abstinence only style teaching? Would like to see the gap in the guide come closer to what was discussed by those in front of the board. What would it take to get this done?

Vice-President Dimit: Before a vote is taken - he wanted to get a reaction from the committee as to what was brought to the board. He would like to see the committee enhance some of the sections to include some of the resources that was talked about.

Committee Member Blackman: He stated that there is only so much time to discuss health issues. It is a comprehensive health education curriculum not a comprehensive sex education curriculum.

Secretary Netter: There are a lot of things to cover - let's bring the right people together to get this done.

Member Cumpston: Let's look at ages when students receive information.

Committee Member C.Minnes: Clarified in the guide - six grade students get nine weeks of health and then as seven graders will receive another nine weeks covering what wasn't covered the year before.

Superintendent Amberg: Focus on age appropriateness, and giving a balanced education. Reminder that a lot is dictated due to NCLB.

5.0 Adjournment

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

President Hudson declared the work session adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

President

Secretary