

**SYNOPSIS**  
**URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT 116**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDY SESSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2006**

Who could have anticipated, last July 24, that what appeared to be a minor fire on the roof of the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center would have turned into the pickle the Urbana School Board was faced with last night.

Several parents of both girls and boys Urbana High School swim team members spoke to the board about concerns – lack of communication about the aquatic center repairs, the repair timeline, what appears to be lack of effort to get the center up and operational again, as well as what will be done in the meantime?

Imagine having a minor vehicle accident and the bizarre result of that accident is that your custom-designed engine has to be replaced. The insurance company of the person who hit you (the accident wasn't your fault at all) says you have to have two estimates for repair or replacement. You have a custom-built engine, so you need the expertise of estimators who understand your custom-built engine.

Apply that analogy to the fire at the aquatic center, which damaged the PoolPak to the degree that it has to be replaced. The PoolPak, in essence, is the brain of the aquatic center – it's the HVAC system, it's the heating/cooling of the water, as well as the environmental conditions. And...it's custom-designed, you can't just buy one off the shelf at Wal-Mart.

The short of it is that we're looking at probably about 12-15 weeks until the aquatic center is operational again. In the meantime, the girls swim team is practicing at the Champaign Country Club until the end of this month. Hopefully we will have worked out a practice schedule with the Champaign YMCA for indoor time starting in October. Boys swimming doesn't start until mid-November and UHS athletic staff are working on a temporary venue for the guys as well.

The school district and Urbana Park District are looking at ways to resolve the issue of passholders who are missing out on swim time. The reality is that there aren't enough indoor pools locally with the capacity to provide a workable solution for the passholders. The park district has been able to find an alternative location for swim and water aerobics classes. Much to the frustration of everyone involved, the lap swimmers and users who do their own water aerobics probably won't have a place to swim until the center reopens.

USD administration is intent on keeping our parents and community informed about status of the aquatic center. Better efforts will be made by coaches to update swimmers and parents. Daily updates on the state of the pool will be shared with Central Office staff. Anyone who has a specific question may contact me (Kathy Wallig, 384.3650 or [kjessup@usd116.org](mailto:kjessup@usd116.org)) and if I can't answer your question, I'll find someone who can.

In other business, the board received the final version of the 2006/07 budget. The document is available for review at the Urbana School District Central Office, 205 N. Race, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 daily, (except Friday when the office closes at 4:00 p.m.) until its planned approval at the September 17 business meeting.

The \$50M document includes an anticipated \$800,000 in increased real estate taxes, most of which will be applied to the lingering deficit from 2003/04. Tax caps in Champaign County have cost us \$6M to date. Business/Finance Director Carol Baker said we would be in good shape if we could keep the Carle tax money, which is being held in escrow until the courts decided if Carle is truly a tax-exempt entity. That legal decision will probably be several years in the making.

Also, one notable action from the August 15 very short meeting was to accept the retirement of Thomas Paine Elementary Principal Janice Bradley at the end of the 2006/07 school year.