

SYNOPSIS
URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT 116
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

We have an official budget for the 2006/07 school year, ringing in at \$50 million, along with some warnings about the future. Our state aid is down by \$700,000 (in tentative numbers) due to decreased enrollments. Medicaid, one of the biggest sources of revenue for special needs, might go away completely in a year or two. When that happens, we need to be prepared for the Education Fund to pick up those expenses. Business/Finance Director Carol Baker has again written in an anticipated jump in utilities this year, but she said it will become more difficult to accommodate the out-of-whack increases we're expecting.

Local real estate taxes foot the bill for 59 percent of our budget, general state aid picks up 17 percent, other state programs and grants pitch in 13 percent, and the federal government pays for 11 percent.

In the good news department, our financial profile, according to the Illinois State Board of Education, has improved and we are back in "financial review," the 2nd highest rating, which is where we were in 2001.

The board also approved a resolution to participate in International Walk To School Day on Wednesday, October 4. Several of our elementary schools participate in the event and Cynthia Hoyle of the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, sponsor of Walk To School Day, is looking forward to that continuation. Photos from last year's Walk are available on the International Walk To School website, just follow the links at the end of the synopsis.

Baker also told the board that Zurich Insurance, the company responsible for paying for the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center repairs (not the school district's insurer, but A&R Mechanical's insurer who has accepted responsibility for the July 24 fire that closed down the center) will pay the claim to us once the repairs are complete. Hopefully this will speed up the process.

Board member Cope Cumpston, who serves as the board rep on the district technology committee, raised concerns about how we budget for the technology department. We have over 800 computers in the district, most of which are 4-5 years old. Staffing for technology is also an issue. Probably everyone in the district is aware that we need to expend more money on technology; the problem is finding those resources. The administration and board will continue to look at the issue and find solutions.

In commendations, Superintendent Gene Amberg announced that UHS principal Laura Taylor successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on Wednesday and, as of December 2006, will officially be Dr. Taylor. (*Did you know that 65 percent of our staff has earned an advanced degree beyond a bachelor's?*)

Walk To School Day web site:

<http://www.iwalktoschool.org/quotes/index.htm>

Leal School 2005 Photos:

http://www.iwalktoschool.org/quotes/photos_country1.cfm?photo=us_il_urbana_leal2

http://www.iwalktoschool.org/quotes/photos_country1.cfm?photo=us_il_urbana_leal1

http://www.iwalktoschool.org/quotes/photos_country1.cfm?photo=us_il_urbana_leal3

Martin Luther King, Jr., School 2005 Photos

http://www.iwalktoschool.org/quotes/photos_country1.cfm?photo=us_il_urbana_mlk1

http://www.iwalktoschool.org/quotes/photos_country1.cfm?photo=us_il_urbana_mlk2

Prairie School 2005 Photos

http://www.iwalktoschool.org/quotes/photos_country1.cfm?photo=us_il_urbana_prairie1-05

http://www.iwalktoschool.org/quotes/photos_country1.cfm?photo=us_il_urbana_prairie2-05