

MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER
December 19, 2006
7:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Joyce Hudson, President
Mr. John Dimit, Vice-President (8:30 p.m.)
Mr. Mark Netter, Secretary
Ms. Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary Pro Tem
Ms. Cope Cumpston, Board Member
Ms. Benita Rollins-Gay, Board Member (9:00 p.m.)

Also Present: Dr. Gene Amberg, Superintendent
Ms. Carol Baker, Director of Business
Mr. Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities
Ms. Carmelita Thomas, Director of Human Resources

Absent: Mr. Steve Summers, Member

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AGENDA

4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS

Keith Erikson, 607 West Indiana, Urbana, spoke to the board about his concerns of “who is minding the store” when the school signed a contract with Westside Mechanical, and not fully comprehend the capabilities and product of the vendor. The main reason he is in front of the board is in regard to the temporary venue the boy’s swim team has had. This has placed the team in harms way. The swimmers encountered somewhat cloudy water on Monday, November 27, 2006. The next day, Tuesday, November 28th, the swimmers practice was aborted because of excessive coughing and gagging by the swimmers. On Wednesday, November 29, 2006, Mr. Erikson contacted the Illinois Department of Public Health, which then investigated the problem. The IDPH said the chlorine level is okay, but the combined level of the chlorine and chloramines were approximately 10 times the allowable level. This was the cause of the coughing and gagging. The responsible person for the pool was not readily available and later to find out - pool maintenance was contracted out with twice a week visits. He then read some highlights from Illinois Administrative Code on pool maintenance that should be done daily. The temporary venue was being operated inconsistently with the law. Several

swimmers missed a day of school, subsequent to this experience. IDPH visited this site on several occasions to return it to lawful operation. December 6, 2006 the pool was deemed safe and the water maintenance practices were in conformant with the law. This brings the question of who is looking out for the student athletes, who is insuring activities such as practice for sports or park district aquatic programs are carried out in a lawful venue. He then offered the following points: Non-factual comments by staff does not inspire confidence in present a substantial inference that the repair effort could have been managed much better and that the Urbana Aquatic Center re-opening is taking longer than necessary. Parents are disappointed and frustrated and angered that swim team practices place their children in a dangerous environment that was operated inconsistent with Illinois law. Please keep the interest and safety of the children to the absolute highest priority - no exceptions. Disappointment, frustration, and anger continue with practices being held from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. This requires the students to provide their own transportation in the late hours of the evening.

5.0 CALL FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING/SESSION (AFTER CURRENT MEETING)

There will be an executive session after the meeting for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing, testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120(c)(1) Also, discussion on the sale/price of school district property. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(6)

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Fisher moved to approve the meeting, seconded by Secretary Netter. Motion passed.

7.0 COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Urbana High School Girls swim team, would like to publicly thank Joe Duchene, Eastland Suites, for the use of their pool for practices, while the Aquatics Center was closed due to a fire in July.

8.0 PUBLIC HEARING

8.01 Public Hearing on Estimated Tax Levy

As required by the "Truth in Taxation Act" a hearing was held on the 2006 tax levy.

The hearing was opened at 7:39 p.m., with no public comment, hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS

10.0 REPORTS

10.01 ARAMARK Update

Sandy Powers and Piper Harvey, ARAMARK, addressed issues and concerns with the Board of Education.

Piper went through the requirements for the Traditional Meal Planning, which is the plan that the district has contracted through ARAMARK. Sandy then spoke about what is happening here in the district and gave definitions of the terms used in the requirements. There were break-downs given regarding the nutrients in each meal which need to be met according to the state requirement. The January lunch menu to show the board what is being served to the students.

There were some questions from the board members. After a current newspaper article with some interviews from the students - the ARAMARK and UMS administrators will be working to see where the issues are. Secretary Netter would like to see them return in a month or two with what they (ARAMARK and administrators) have found out. They are making some changes regarding what is offered on the menu, ie: going with whole grain cereals, 100% juices. Member Cumpston would like them to continue to look at ways to help kids make a better choices in what they eat. Member Cumpston sees on the menu a lot of greasy/fried foods. Sandy made sure everyone knew that the food is not fried it is all baked. ARAMARK has switched to all trans fat oils if needed.

A question was then asked if there was anymore talk about establishing a advisory board that may include parents, staff, and some students? It makes sense to possibly use the same people that served on the Wellness Committee that has already been discharged. It will be looked into to re-staff the Wellness Committee to also serve as the advisory board regarding school food/nutrition.

Nutritional information is available to those that would like it. Piper is will to meet with those that would like to request this info.

10.02 Secondary Schools Update/Program Initiatives

Nancy Clinton and Laura Taylor, along with UMS and UHS staff members, will discuss updated secondary initiatives/programs.

Nancy Clinton, Urbana Middle School Principal, made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the recent test scores and trends they have seen. Comparison's were done between 2005 and 2006 scores. see attached printout

Laura Taylor, Urbana High School Principal, made a PowerPoint presentation regarding school improvement initiatives, gave additional academic data, then went over the restructuring plan for the 2008-2009 school year. see attached printout The high school does not have their scores to this date.

10.04 Building Improvement Project List/Working Cash Bond Discussion

Carol Baker, Director of Business, and Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities, discussed potential building improvement projects that could be completed utilizing working cash bonds. Carol went over the timeline and process to use cash bonds to complete list of improvements given to the board (see attachment).

After list was reviewed, Secretary Netter wants the community to have time to understand what this means for them. He would like to take it to the next step. Others saying they were in favor of moving to the next step: President Hudson and Member Rollins-Gay. Member Fisher asked how do we know if all the schools listed will still need to be in use. Especially if the enrollment continues to decline.

Carol will bring scenarios to the next board meeting to see what direction the board wants to take. Resolutions will also be on the agenda for approval.

11.0 ACTION ITEMS (Consent)

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve the action items consent agenda, seconded by Secretary Netter. On a roll call, all members present voted “aye”. Motion passed. Absent: S.Summers

11.01 Minutes

Business Meeting, November 21, 2006

11.02 November 30th Bills/Checks

Education Fund bill.....	\$1,361,649.22
Operating & Maintenance Fund bills.....	\$ 110,020.76
Bond & Interest Fund bills.....	\$ 0.00
Transportation Fund bills.....	\$ 172,277.24
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund bills.....	\$ 72,681.43
Construction Fund bills.....	\$ 0.00
Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds.....	\$ 0.00
Fire Prevention and Safety (Levy)	\$ 0.00
Payroll.....	\$2,365,235.62
Adult Education bills.....	\$ 151,257.94

11.03 Interfund Loans

None

11.04 Personnel Items

Approval of various personnel items were requested.

11.05 Xerographic Paper Bid

Carol Baker, Director of Business, made an administrative recommendation to award the bid to Bye Mor, Inc., for \$20,451.20.

12.0 ACTION ITEMS (Individual)

12.01 Gifts

Urbana High School Photography Class received two generous donations: **Anthony Bailey**, Hubertus, WI donated \$2,500 worth of equipment and **Michael Walker and Tina Gunsalus**, Urbana, donated \$800 worth of equipment.

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve and accept the above gifts, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.

12.03 Approval of the Tax Levy Resolution

Board adoption of the 2006 Tax Levy was requested.

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve item #12.03, seconded by Member Fisher. On a roll call, all members present voted "aye". Motion passed. Absent: S.Summers

12.04 Board of Education Closed Meeting Confidentiality

The Board of Education reviewed closed meeting minutes to determine if the need for confidentiality still exists for all or part of the minutes, or what minutes or portion thereof no longer require confidentiality and are available for public inspection.

Vice-President Dimit moved to keep the closed meeting minutes closed, seconded by Member Fisher. Motion passed.

13.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

14.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ota gave an update about the Urbana Aquatics Center: the Pool Pak has been delivered and everything is on time/schedule.

Member Cumpston gave a Bilingual Committee report:

Leal Elementary is looking at professional development. UMS had eight parents, three staff at the meeting. They are looking for ways to expand communication.

Staffing - they would like to see more aggressive hiring strategies to hire Spanish speaking staff.

Kay Bell would like the board to give any direction regarding the dual language program.

Committee would like to have more input from the Board of Education.

Long - term planning.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Netter moved to adjourn the meeting to go into executive session, seconded by Member Fisher. On a roll call, all members present voted "aye". Motion passed. Absent: S.Summers

President Hudson declared the meeting adjourned to go into executive session at 10:30 p.m. There was no action following the executive session.

President

Secretary