

**MUNUTES
STUDY SESSION
URBANA BOARD OF EDUCATION
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER
March 6, 2007
7:30 P.M.**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Joyce Hudson, President
Mr. John Dimit, Vice-President (7:34 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
Dr. Preston Williams, Deputy 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 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS

Darrel Foste, Urbana, expressed his support for Greg Hall's appointment the new Urbana Athletic Director. He referred to Greg's character as outstanding and complemented Greg for the work he has witnessed as Greg was his son's wrestling coach.

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

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Fisher moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Secretary Netter. Motion passed.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS

7.01 ARAMARK Report

Piper Harvey, ARAMARK presented an updated report to the Board of Education.

8.0 POLICY REVIEW

9.0 PUBLIC HEARING

10.0 ACTION ITEMS (Individual)

10.01 Personnel Item(s)

Approval for various personnel items were requested.

Ms. Carmelita Thomas, Director of Human Resources, noted two employees from Urbana Adult Education retiring: Nina Heckman with fourteen years, and Carol Belber with nineteen years with the district.

Secretary Netter moved to approve item #10.01, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. On a roll call vote, all members present voted “aye”. Motion passed.

10.02 HR Solutions Intergovernmental Agreement

Approval for the Intergovernmental Agreement with Champaign-Ford Counties Regional Office of Education for HR Solutions was requested.

Member Rollins-Gay moved to approve item #10.02, seconded by Member Cumpston. On a roll call vote, all members present voted “aye”. Motion passed.

10.03 Intergovernmental Agreement with the Urbana Police Department

Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Urbana School District and the Urbana Police Department was requested.

Member Rollins-Gay moved to approve item #10.03, seconded by Member Fisher. Motion passed.

11.0 STUDY TOPIC(S)

11.01 Discipline Report: Issues, Impacts, Trends

Dr. Preston Williams and Mr. Don Owen, facilitated an update about the districts issues, impacts and trends to the Board of Education.

Mr. Owen first reported on the status of student discipline in District 116. Using data gleaned from the Skyward student information system and with the assistance and input of building principals, he reviewed the current number and character of discipline referrals to a similar point in time in the previous school year. In most buildings the number of referrals is running close to the number of incidences reported in the previous year. One area noted as reflecting a difference from last year was the number of out of school suspensions versus the number of in school suspensions. He noted that this year we are seeing a higher percentage of in school suspensions with a corresponding reduction in the number of out of school suspensions. Last year the percentages were somewhat reversed with there being a larger percentage of out of school suspensions and a smaller percentage of in school suspensions.

Principals were called upon to describe the plans in place in their buildings to address discipline issues. In all cases, the administrators focused on the goal of creating a building climate that was positive for learning while also assuring a safe and welcoming environment. Specific references were made to the P.B.I.S. model that is used in several buildings. While the district is making good use of the Skyward program in reporting the number of incidences of discipline referrals, it was noted that not all referrals result in a consequence for the student.

The district's emphasis on transitions for students from Elementary to Middle School and from Middle School to High School were credited with improving building climate and assisting students in adapting to new expectations and assuming responsibility for their behavior. Board member Dimit reflected that the number of incidences reported by Mr. Owen were running at a level of approximately one-third to one half of those reported 8 to 10 years ago.

Mr. Owen noted that district staff would be taking additional training on the Skyward system this summer and that future reports would reflect sub-group categories, such as gender and race.

11.02 Staff Development Initiatives

Don Owen, Director of Staff Development, facilitated discussion about the staff development initiatives.

Mr. Owen then turned to his report on Staff Development initiatives for the district. He first thanked fellow staff members Kathy Barbour, Alexis Jones, Linda Gibbens, Jean Korder and John Morrow for their support and involvement in the Staff Development Program for the District. Also cited as a key ingredient in the planning and delivery of staff development activities was the Instructional Support Team (IST)

District Initiatives in Staff Development were described and discussed. These included: CRISS (Creating Independence through Student owned Strategies); A Framework for Understanding Poverty; Write Traits; New Teacher Mentoring; Safety and Prevention; Lesson Study; Technology; Gifted Education; Support for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Beginning School Math; DIBELS; and support for new curriculum guides.

Mr. Owen described the variety of partnerships which make the Staff Development program possible including: The Chancellor's Academy; Title IIC grants; Graduate K-12 Project; Moveable Feast Technology Training; and, the American History Teacher Collaborative which our district coordinates for six school districts in the county.

Mr. Owen said that he and the IST are reviewing the district's Board Credit Policy as to its relationship to the No Child Left Behind policies.

He concluded his presentation with a look at the funding for Staff Development noting that an important way that our district is able to provide such a comprehensive program is through the competitive grants process. The overall effect of these grants and title programs is to provide the district with the equivalent of 7.8 full time staff.

11.03 District Alternative Programs & Outcomes

Grace Mitchell, Director of Secondary Alternative Education gave an update about the program and give outcomes to dates.

Grace Mitchell, Director of Secondary Alternative Education, reviewed options available to high school students. She began her presentation with a description of the "Recapture Credits" program which holds classes in the high school from 3:30 to 6:00. This program provides the opportunity for high school students who fall behind in credits to catch-up or "Recapture" the credits needed to get back on pace for graduation. Additional services include transportation and an evening meal. Classes

are offered in a 6 week session format with six sessions offered each school year. The program has proven to be popular with students with typical enrollments in each session of 45-50 students.

Additional alternatives used by the district include: the R.E.A.D.Y. Program provided by the Regional Office of Education and housed at the M.T.D. Terminal in Champaign. It serves middle school and high school

students with 37 Urbana students as part of a total enrollment of 102 students which is a record high enrollment for R.E.A.D.Y.; Storefront School; Urbana Adult Education; Lincoln's Challenge; Circle Academy; Parkland College; The Urban League's Youth Empowerment Program; and, a new program for 15-18 year olds sponsored by the Don Moyer's Boys and Girls Club.

11.04 Facilities Improvement Options

POSTPONED
of Education on facility improvement options.

12.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

13.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Amberg provided the board with information regarding the procedures for filling the vacant board seat of Pres. Hudson who is not running in the April 17 election. The board will have 45 days from the election to appoint a person from Ms. Hudson's sub-district. Regarding the possibility of a write-in candidate, Dr. Amberg cited the School Code and Board of Elections Handbook which states that a person wishing to be a write-in candidate must file a notarized declaration by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday one week prior to the election. This process must be done through the County Clerk's office

Dr. Amberg asked the board to schedule a third March meeting for March 27 in order to meet R.I.F. time requirements. A second agenda item will be to review the district's budget list.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President Dimit moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. On a roll call vote, all members present voted "aye". Motion passed.

President Hudson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.