

Synopsis
Urbana School District 116
Business Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2007

The March business meeting of the Board of Education was moved to the second Tuesday of March to allow for the Spring Break which is the week of March 19th-23rd.

Congratulations to Nancy Fehr, 1st grade teacher at Wiley Elementary, who was recognized for receiving the "Women of Distinction Award" from the Green Meadows Girl Scout council.

A number of significant gifts were received by the school district including: donations to provide eye exams and glasses for students unable to access services from Urbana Rotary \$2,500; C.K. Gunsalus and Michael Walker \$300; and New Eyes for the Needy \$2,000.

Beth Newsome, Urbana, donated a brand new Nebulizer to be placed in a school when needed.

Peter Fox, Fox Development, Champaign, donated \$2565 to support the Wiley Elementary extended day instructional program.

The Heinricher Family, Urbana, donated a cello, valued at \$999 to the Urbana Middle School Orchestra Department.

Ernie Westfield, Urbana, donated a Negro League Baseball sports memorabilia chair valued at \$3,500 to the King Elementary School which will be auctioned off with the proceeds going towards the purchase of a new marquee at King School.

The Board accepted the bid of Menard, Inc. for the purchase of 17.7 acres of farmland at the Northeast Corner of Washington and Pfeffer Road for \$275,999.99. This is equal to \$15,593.22 per acre.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to a study topic carried over from the March 6 meeting. Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities, led a discussion with the Board of Education on facility improvement options for the district. Mr. Dossett presented a list of facility repair and improvement projects along with an estimated cost to complete each item. The Board discussed each item as to its immediate or future need, its estimated cost and options to use district staff to complete many of the projects versus hiring outside engineers and contractors to complete the projects.

Items discussed included: Replacing the balcony folding doors at the Middle School; replacing sink basins at four elementary schools and at Washington ECC; air-conditioning the library and the classrooms along the north and south hallways of Thomas Paine; paving the parking lot and studying the traffic flow at Thomas Paine; replacing flagpoles at five buildings; installing exterior security cameras at all schools that do not currently have the cameras; exterior painting at Yankee Ridge; seating replacement and repairs to the lecture hall at U.H.S.; purchase of a mini boiler for U.M.S. lighting improvements at Wiley; improving energy management controls at

elementary schools and at Washington ECC; and improvement to fields for educational instruction.

As a key part of the discussion, John Morrow, Director of Instructional Technology, updated the Board on the District's needs for upgrading and building new infrastructure to support the technology needs of the district.

The board did conduct a straw poll to indicate areas they support for implementing recommendations. Official action will be taken at the next scheduled board meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. The Board will act on recommendations for Reduction if Force notifications, review budget related items and act on facility improvements.