

Synopsis
Urbana School District 116
Study Session
Tuesday, May 1, 2007

The Urbana School Board meeting was made up of several special moments. The first was the conclusion of the service of Board President Joyce Hudson, who did not seek reelection. President Hudson served on the Board for ten years. This was a period of time that saw the district pass a significant school referendum by an 83% majority. There was great growth in the district's facilities including the remodeling and additions of the Urbana Middle School, Leal School and King School. The construction of the Aquatic Center and the Health Center were also key milestones. The district also implemented a studied approach to land acquisition.

Board members were gracious in their comments recalling their pleasure in serving on the Board with Joyce. She did receive an inscribed gavel and base from her fellow board members in appreciation of her service.

As her final act, she relinquished her chair to Vice President Dimit so that she could offer the motion to adjourn *sine die*. The motion was seconded and passed by a roll call vote.

The Board then took a short period of time to reconstitute itself based on the results of the recent election. Newly elected board member Brenda Carter joined with re-elected members Benita Rollins-Gay, Steve Summers, and John Dimit in taking the oath of office administered by Board member Mark Netter.

Steve Summers then chaired the meeting while the Board voted to elect officers to serve a two year term. Members elected by the Board to serve as officers were: Mark Netter to be Board President, John Dimit to serve as Vice-President, Ruth Ann Fisher to serve as Secretary, and Benita Rollins-Gay to serve as Secretary Pro-Tem.

President Mark Netter then took the gavel and announced that the first meeting of the new Board would begin. The Board voted to continue its regular meeting time of 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month with the exception of the month of July when there will be no meetings.

In the business portion of the meeting, the board approved the appointment of Barbara Sartain as Principal of Wiley Elementary and Sandra Cooper as Principal of Thomas Paine Elementary.

Carol Baker gave the Board an update on the District's Wellness Committee. The Board approved the adoption of a Wellness policy a year ago. Implementation of the policy was primarily the responsibility of the building principals. This spring a survey of principals was conducted relative to the Wellness Policy. Ms. Baker shared the results of the survey

and the intention of reconstituting the district-wide committee for the coming school year. Three key questions were raised by the board. Mr. Dimit suggested that a lead person be designated to convene the meetings of the committee and report to the board. He felt this should be the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, but that everyone should know who the person is. Board President Netter asked that the committee define what success in this area looks like. We need to know our goals if we are going to measure progress toward them. Board member Carter asked that we also explore the costs associated with the recommendations that the committee would make.

The Board then heard reports from four buildings regarding their school improvement plans. Presentations were made by:

Dr. Joan Fortschneider for Wiley Elementary School

Sandy Cooper for Gerber School

Gayle Jeffries for Prairie Elementary School

Spencer Landsman for Leal Elementary School

Each principal gave a 10 minute update on their building's plan and the progress that their building students and staff have made in achieving their goals. There are many positive accomplishments taking place in our buildings!

Superintendent Amberg then gave an update on the negotiations with the U.E.A.

Before the close of the meeting an announcement was made of the Retirement Reception for Gene Amberg on Sunday, May 6 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana Middle School.

The next meeting of the Board will be its regular business meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

submitted by John Muirhead