

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis  
September 4, 2007**

The Urbana School District Board of Education was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by board president Mark Netter. The agenda was approved and Netter announced there would be an executive session after the regular business meeting for the purpose of discussing property.

During the public comments segment Mark Frobish of the UHS Softball Boosters thanked the school district for refurbishing and upgrading the softball diamond.

The School Board discussed rejoining the Illinois Association of School Boards. It was estimated that it would cost a little over \$7,000 to join. Several board members expressed a desire to rejoin the IASB. Netter said, "We ask teachers to continue their education. Can we ask any less of ourselves?" The Board asked school officials to make a line item for membership in the IASB, and the board will take formal action at a future meeting.

The board held a public hearing regarding the fiscal year 2008 District Budget. There were no comments.

The District 116 School Board then conducted a public hearing on the fiscal year 2008 Adult Education Budget. There were no public comments.

Adult Education Director David Adcock then briefed the School Board on the Adult Education budget. Adcock said overall grant funding was down 1.5% from last year. Ruth Ann Fisher and Cope Cumpston expressed concern about outreach worker hours being cut in the Truancy Alternative Program. The outreach workers are assigned to district buildings, but they are Adult Education employees. Adcock said since the state budget took so long to be approved he could not be sure of the funding levels. Adcock said he cut two hours per position until the state funding comes through. Fisher said she is upset that a needed program is held in limbo while the state budget is negotiated. Superintendent Preston Williams reminded the board that the Truancy Alternative Program is not a district program; it is funded through state grants run by Adult Education. Williams said if the district takes over the program from Adult Education or supplements the grant with district funds, it would be precedent setting in terms of the district supporting an Adult Education program with district funding.

Director of Business and Finance Carol Baker briefed the school board on the budget process. Baker says she is still receiving revenue details from the state and will have a final budget ready for the School Board's September 18 meeting. By law the final budget needs to be approved by September 30. Cumpston asked Baker if the board could be supplied with the list of "put back" items for the September 18 meeting. The list contains monies for programs that were reduced or eliminated during prior budget cuts.

Heidi Britton, Director of the School Based Health Center briefed board members about the services offered at the facility. Britton reported that 63% of District 116 students have enrolled in the Health Center and 47% have utilized it. Board member Ruth Ann Fisher asked Britton if there is enough space at the facility to accommodate the demand. Britton said there is enough space for now.

The School Board was then briefed on a survey about juvenile justice and the education system from the Mental Health Center of Champaign County's Peer Ambassadors. The Peer Ambassadors program is a peer-to-peer education, counseling, advocacy, and leadership program for African American/Latino youth in Champaign County. The District 116 School Board applauded the students for the work they did on the survey. For more information about the Peer Ambassadors program and the results of the survey, contact Karen Simms at 398-8080.

The School Board adjourned into an executive session at 8:47 p.m.

The next Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting will be Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at the Jean F. Burkholder Administrative Service Center at 7:30 p.m.