

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis
September 18, 2007**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. There were five members present (Cope Cumpston and Benita Rollins-Gay were absent). There were no citizen statements and Netter announced that there would be an executive session after the business meeting for the purpose of discussing litigation and property.

The Board of Education received on first reading a policy on the Admission of Child Sex Offenders onto School Property to School Related Activities and Extracurricular Events. Superintendent Preston Williams says the policy reflects state law and makes clear an offender's obligations, responsibilities, and limitations when it comes entering school property. Williams says the policy is "very restrictive." The board will vote to adopt the policy at its October 2 meeting. See Board Policy 6.495 for more information.

The board then approved the consent items that included the minutes from August 28, 2007 business meeting and the September 4, 2007 study session. Board members also approved the September bills and checks, personnel items (see Agenda item 11.04), and the purchase of property at 107 West Washington.

The school board announced the following gifts were given to District 116:

- Dennis and Stephanie Eddy of Rantoul donated an Alphatalker Communications device to the ASSIST program.
- Elsa and Carol Gunter of Urbana donated \$250 to the UMS Stellar team, \$250 to Mr. Huff's third grade room, \$125 to Mrs. Leroy and Mrs. Headtke's 2/3 class all at Leal Elementary.
- Daniel Downie of Urbana donated \$1,085 he received from his Bar Mitzvah to the Leal Elementary library.
- Robert Bellfi, Napa, CA, donated epi-pen trainers, training CD, and information to be used district wide.

The School Board voted 4-1 to join the Illinois Association of School Boards. The annual dues are \$6,893, but the IASB will prorate the dues and District 116 will pay \$4,425 this year.

Business and Finance Director Carol Baker then presented the final draft of the Fiscal Year 2008 District Budget. The \$53.1 million spending plan does not include any monies from the Carle Tax Escrow. Baker says the District is starting the year with a \$262,066 positive balance in the education fund which is the first time in at least five years that the education fund has started the fiscal year in the black. Other operating funds show a small deficit. Baker says she is still waiting on the state for funding news, so she says this budget is based on LAST year's funding levels, and did not take into account any new state aid. Baker also noted that on May 1 the working cash fund balance for the district was almost \$3.5 million. On May 1, 2004 the working cash fund was \$11,000, so Baker says this is great news and shows that the working cash fund is strong. Baker says she used conservative figures to make this year's budget and also noted that tax caps are continuing to impact District 116. She calculates that the Urbana School District loses two million dollars per year in revenue due to tax caps. The Board approved the final FY 2008 Urbana School District #116 budget on a 5-0 vote.

The School Board voted 5-0 to approve the Urbana Adult Education Fiscal Year 2008 budget. The budget calls for just under \$1.6 million in spending, and shows over \$14,000 in a surplus.

Public Relations Specialist Mark Schultz briefed the Board on recent honors being given out to District 116 teachers. Urbana Middle School Science Teacher Janice Hari won the 2007 President's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Secondary Education from the Entomological

Society of America. She will receive her award this December. This summer Urbana Middle School Teacher Deborah Tamimie won the 2007 Outstanding Teacher in Family and Consumer Sciences Award from the Illinois Association of Career and Technical Education. Wiley primary teacher Jill Quisenberry and Wiley social worker Kim Fitton have won a Those Who Excel award from the Illinois State Board of Education. Quisenberry and Fitton will receive their awards October 13 at the ISBE banquet.

Carol Baker briefed the board on a change in food service. There are currently severe peanut allergies in five of six elementary schools. Since these students will eventually move to the middle and high schools, District 116 has agreed with its food service provider to take peanut butter out of all schools effective October 1. Peanut butter was an alternate entrée, and now the alternate will be a cheese sandwich or a bologna and cheese sandwich. The district cannot mandate that parents take peanut butter out of sack lunches; however the Urbana School District is asking parents to not send their kids to school with peanut butter in their lunches. Williams told the board that schools have peanut-free tables in the cafeteria, and he says peanut allergies are a very serious health concern so that is why the District 116 is taking this action.

The School Board adjourned into executive session at 8:21 p.m. The next Urbana School District Board of Education Meeting will be Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at the Jean F. Burkholder Administrative Service Center, 205 North Race Street, Urbana.