

**MINUTES  
STUDY SESSION  
URBANA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER  
October 2, 2007  
7:30 P.M.**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2.0 ROLL CALL**

Present: Mr. Mark Netter, President  
Mr. John Dimit, Vice-President  
Ms. Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary  
Ms. Benita Rollins-Gay, Secretary Pro Tem  
Ms. Cope Cumpston, Member  
Ms. Brenda Carter, Member  
Mr. Steve Summers, Member

Others Present: Dr. Preston L. Williams, Jr., Superintendent  
Mr. Don Owen, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Gayle Jeffries, Assistant Superintendent Human

Resources Ms. Carol Baker, Director of Business  
Ms. Susan Baker-Ory, Assistant Superintendent Special

Services Mr. Ota Dossett, Director of Grounds and Facilities

**3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

**4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS**

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

## 6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Secretary Fisher moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.*

## 7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS

### 7.01 Staff Development Summer Update/Participation

Kathy Barbour, Director of Staff Development, reviewed with the Board of Education staff development summer activities and participation. Ms. Barbour highlighted the success of the teacher mentoring program, noting that when it started in the fall of 2004 there were 12 mentors for 17 new teachers. This year 30 mentors are helping 40 new teachers.

## 8.0 POLICY REVIEW

### 8.01 First Reading of New Board Policy 2.810 - Screening Volunteers

The board was given for their first reading a new board policy, 2.810 - Screening Volunteers. Approval will be requested at the October 16, 2007 business meeting.

Under the new policy all volunteers working with children more than three times in a school year must be finger-printed and must pass a criminal background check. This policy does not apply to adults visiting the school. It only applies to adults who work with children. Currently it costs \$54 to perform a background check. There is currently a backlog of volunteers waiting for their background checks to come through and gain clearance to begin volunteering. Administrators asked the board to think about having non-parents, grandparents, and retired teachers who are looking to volunteer to assume some of the cost. The board had several questions about the program, its cost, privacy issues, and the option of purchasing equipment and conducting background checks in-district (currently District 116 partners with Champaign Unit 4).

## 9.0 ACTION ITEMS (Consent/Individual)

### 9.01 Approval to Submit Application for Recognition of Schools (Consent)

Board of Education approval was requested to submit the application for recognition of schools with the Illinois State Board of Education.

### 9.02 Personnel Items (Consent)

Approval of various personnel items were requested.

### 9.03 Approval of New Board Policy 6.495 Admission of Child Sex Offenders onto School Property to School Related Activities and Extracurricular Events (Consent)

Approval on a new Board Policy 6.495, Admission of Child Sex Offenders onto School Property to School Related Activities and Extracurricular Events was requested.

*Vice-President Dimit moved to approve items #9.01, #9.02, and #9.03, seconded by Member Summers. On a roll call vote, all members present voted “aye”. Motion passed.*

**9.04 Walk to School Day Proclamation (Individual)**

Adoption of “Walk to School Day” was requested. A proclamation was read to the public.

*Member Carter moved to approve item #9.04, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.*

**10.0 STUDY TOPIC(S)**

**10.01 Adult Education - Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP)**

Dr. David Adcock, Director of Adult Education, discussed with the Board of Education the current Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program.

Each year the federal government grants UAE money to fund outreach workers to work with students, families, and the community to make sure students attend school. The outreach workers also work with students and families regarding behavior and academic issues. The grant began in 1986 and has remained flat while the workload has gone up. Members of the board had several questions for Dr. Adcock and outreach workers in attendance about the program and the uncertainty of waiting each year to see if the grant money comes through. Board members also expressed gratitude to the outreach workers for their hard work and for their patience in being RIFed each spring until the grant money comes back.

**10.02 ISAT/PSAE Update**

Don Owen, Assistant Superintendent, facilitated an ISAT/PSAE update for the Board of Education.

Mr. Owen told the board that all elementary schools made AYP this year while the middle and high school didn’t make it. Mr. Owen explained the different subgroups, statistical data, and how the federal government uses this data as a part of the No Child Left Behind Act. There were 56 hurdles for District 116 to clear this year in order for all schools to meet AYP. The Urbana School District made 49 out of 56 hurdles.

**11.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS**

**12.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

*Vice-President Dimit moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.*

*President Netter declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.*

---

President

---

Secretary