

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis  
October 16, 2007**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by board president Mark Netter. All board members were present.

Joni Markel of Sidell spoke to the board asking that they implement an expanded curriculum at the middle school and the high school to train students of the dangers of shaken baby syndrome (SBS). Markel's family has suffered personal loss because of SBS.

Terry Townsend of Urbana spoke to the board regarding safety at the high school. Townsend thanked the high school teachers, administrators, and district administrators for their care displayed to his niece after her accident at the high school. Townsend said, "I have never seen that much emotion, caring, and loving from teachers." He said the family was very moved and grateful. Townsend also asked the board to take a look at safety issues in the area where the accident occurred.

Elsa Gunter of Urbana spoke to the board regarding the screening policy for volunteers. She expressed concern about privacy issues in submitting fingerprints, names, and other personal information to law enforcement authorities.

The school board then heard from Heather Powell of BKD, LLP as she presented the 2006-07 audit report. Powell said the financial picture is trending up for the school district. For more information about the audit report, please contact Business and Finance Director Carol Baker.

The school board voted to approve the consent agenda that included payment of the October 30 bills and checks, interfund loans, personnel items, and approval of hazardous areas in order to continue to receive funding from the state.

The board accepted the following gifts to the district:

- Marcia Lerner, Dewey donated office supplies from her late husband's office to Thomas Paine Elementary valued at \$7,500.
- Sara Welch, Urbana, donated \$160 to the Urbana Middle School TEACCH class.
- Chris Filer, Musical Instrument Repair, Champaign, donated \$368 worth of labor in repairing UMS instruments.
- Carolyn Baxley, Cinema Gallery, Urbana, donated \$100 to purchase sketchpads for students to take art classes at Leal Elementary.
- Angela Codd, Community Relations for Office Depot, donated 40-1GB USB flash drives to Urbana Adult Education, valued at \$600
- Linda Colman, Champaign, donated a new Canon Pixma MP160 and a new Canon Pixma iP1800 printer to the Prairie Elementary Library. The donation was valued at \$150.
- The Class of 1957 presented Dan Perrino a check representing just over \$1,650 in donations to the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation Dan Perrino Urbana Bands Endowment Fund which provides scholarships to UHS band students every year.

The board of education discussed the new policy of screening volunteers. The policy is to screen volunteers who work directly with children in schools more than three times per year. The background check is the same for volunteers as it is for new employees. The district will pay the cost of the background check. Several board members spoke in favor of the policy. Member John Dimit spoke in favor of the policy, but cautioned the board and district to be very careful to keep this information confidential. The school district and school board will also research the possibility of renting equipment to conduct the fingerprinting for all potential District 116 employees and volunteers. To date the district has conducted background checks for over 600

employees and volunteers this year, and there are about 100 checks left to complete. The board approved the policy unanimously. Please contact Gayle Jeffries or see Board Policy 2.810 for more information.

Assistant Superintendent Don Owen reported to the board that two schools (Thomas Paine and King) are researching the idea of a balanced calendar for the school year. Both groups are in the preliminary stages of their research. Netter said if the schools are researching the balanced calendar option they need to make sure the parents are behind the effort.

Superintendent Williams says the time has come to make a decision to either refurbish the Washington Early Childhood School or build a new building. Ota Dossett will make a presentation to the board that will update and recommend projects for District 116 facilities during the November 6 school board meeting.

The board adjourned into executive session for the purpose of property acquisition or lease at 8:43 p.m. There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

The next Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting will be November 6, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 North Race Street, Urbana.