

**Urbana Board of Education
Study Session Minutes
Jean F. Burkholder Administrative Service Center
205 North Race St.
November 6, 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. Brenda Carter, Member
Ms. Cope Cumpston, Board 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

Absent: Ms. Benita Rollins-Gay, Secretary Pro Tem

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AGENDA

4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS

Debra Eastin, Champaign, staff member of Washington Early Childhood, spoke to the Board of Education about the facilities at Washington Early Childhood. The facilities impact all students and staff at all levels. The physical condition is effecting the quality of services that could be given to the students.

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 Vice-President Dimit. Motion passed.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS

7.01 Mentor Grant Evaluation

Beth Welbes, Center for Prevention Research and Development, gave the Board of Education a presentation on the findings of her research pertaining to our mentoring program.

Ms. Welbes says the program has shown demonstrated improvement in academics, attendance, and social skills from the students that have a mentor. She stressed that the mentors are not tutors or behavioral coaches, but they are there to build relationships and provide social support for each student. She also praised the District 116 Board of Education for a “fiscally and socially responsible decision” to fund the program.

8.0 POLICY REVIEW

9.0 ACTION ITEMS (individual/consent if needed)

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve the following action items as consent, seconded by Member Summers. On a roll call, all members present voted “aye”. Motion passed. Absent: B.Rollins-Gay

9.01 Purchase of Property - 908 South Race Street

Approval was requested to purchase 908 South Race Street property for the amount of \$112,000.

9.02 Personnel Items

Approval of various personnel items were requested.

10.0 STUDY TOPICS

10.01 Supportive Supervision Plan Evaluation Committee Report

Gayle Jeffries facilitated a presentation to the Board of Education, covering the supportive supervision plan evaluation committee: road shows, plan changes, and plan evaluation procedures of teachers.

Committee members Greg Johnson and Don Owen also participated in the discussion. Johnson told the board that the new evaluation plan is simpler, smaller, and clearer. Anyone needing more information regarding the supervision plan, they are to contact Gayle Jeffries at 384-3641.

10.02 Six Year Building and Grounds Improvement Plan

Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities, presented a six year building and grounds improvement plan to the Board of Education.

Mr. Dossett talked about his goal is to have all buildings asbestos-free at the conclusion of the project and have all schools meet life-safety codes. He stressed that the plan is a draft subject to changes from the school board. During the report Don Owen and John Morrow briefed the board on the district's plan to upgrade technology in school buildings. Board member John Dimit praised the report and said it is time to start thinking about the future of District 116 buildings. Mr. Dimit said that there needs to be a community-based group to discuss these matters. The board also directed Mr. Dossett to bring the life-safety projects back to the board as an action item for the November 20, 2007 business meeting.

11.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

12.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Williams asked Ota to comment on the MRSA staph infection and what the district does to keep buildings clean. Ota says custodians use hospital-grade cleaning products and follow the Center for Disease Control's recommended procedures to prevent the spread of diseases. Custodians have also installed hand sanitizers in schools and have sanitized lockers in the middle school and the high school.

Mark Schultz highlighted fall sports results at Urbana High School and he also invited the public to attend the UHS fall production of "Around the World in 80 Days."

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

President Netter declared the meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

President

Secretary