

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis
November 6, 2007**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order by Board President Mark Netter at 7:31 p.m.

Deb Easton spoke to the board during the public comment session. She called on the school district to make improvements to the Washington Early Childhood School building.

The board heard a report from Beth Welbes, Center for Prevention Research and Development, pertaining to her research of the CU-One-to-One Mentoring program. Welbes says the program has shown demonstrated improvement in academics, attendance, and social skills from the students that have a mentor. Welbes stressed that the mentors are not tutors or behavioral coaches, but they are there to build relationships and provide social support for each student. Welbes praised the District 116 Board of Education for a "fiscally and socially responsible decision" to fund the program.

Board members then approved two action items. The board approved various personnel items and voted to approve the purchase of property at 908 South Race Street.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Gayle Jeffries facilitated a discussion with the board regarding the Plan Evaluation Committee Report. Committee members Greg Johnson and Don Owen also participated in the discussion. The three highlighted the changes in the Supportive Supervision Plan. Johnson told the board that the new evaluation plan is simpler, smaller, and clearer. For more information about the Plan Evaluation Committee Report please contact Gayle Jeffries at 384-3600.

Director of Maintenance and Grounds Ota Dossett presented the board with a six-year building plan. Dossett says the goal is to have all buildings asbestos-free at the conclusion of the project and have all schools meet life-safety codes. Dossett stressed that the plan is a draft subject to changes from the school board. During this 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. He says there needs to be a community-based group to discuss these matters. The board also directed Dossett to bring the life-safety projects back to the board as an action item for the November 20 meeting.

During the Superintendent's report Dr. Preston Williams asked Dossett to comment on the MRSA staph infection and what the district does to keep buildings clean. Dossett 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.

Also in the Superintendent's report Williams invited the public to John Dimit's retirement reception from his "day" job November 8, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., at the Brookens Center in Urbana.

Mark Schultz participated in the Superintendent's report by highlighting 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." Please see <http://www.usd116.org/news/newsfolder/80days.html> for more information.

The board adjourned at 9:32 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, November 20, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 North Race Street, Urbana.