

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis  
November 20, 2007**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by board Vice-President John Dimit (President Mark Netter and member Cope Cumpston were absent). There were no citizen statements and the agenda was approved with no corrections.

The school board then recognized a grant received by the Champaign Public Library in the amount of \$100,000. District 116 was a grant partner in that process and as a result, Urbana School District libraries will receive \$1,000 each (\$8,000 total) for the purchase of books.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Don Owen presented on first reading the 2008-09 school calendar. He thanked all the members of the school calendar committee and invited board feedback over the next few weeks. The calendar committee hopes to finish its work by the end of the first semester—and then start on the 2009-10 school calendar. If you have any questions about the school calendar, please contact Mr. Owen.

Board members then approved a consent agenda including:

- The minutes of the October 16 and November 6 board meetings
- The October 30<sup>th</sup> Bills/Checks
- Various personnel items
- Appointment of Busy Bank as the 2008 bank depository
- Purchase of 113 West Washington Street property for \$191,500
- Application for the FY08 School Library Grant

The board then gratefully accepted the following gifts to District 116 and instructed administration to thank the following:

- Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club donated \$1,500 to the Urbana Middle School to support Charter Education.
- Patrick Weatherhead and Karen Metz of Urbana donated \$300 each to the Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School band programs.
- Rose and Ken Townsend of Urbana donated \$125 to Thomas Paine Elementary for student field trips, class parties, and assistance with other expenses.
- Mansfield United Methodist Church, on behalf of the Paul Bateman Bequest, donated \$245 worth of MTD tokens to Urbana Adult Education.
- Mack's Twin City Auto Recycling, Urbana, donated 12 automatic engines and 10 alternators and starters to Urbana High School's automotive program (value \$1,200).
- Judy Blanford, Champaign Public Library, Champaign, donated an "Adult New Reader" collection to the Adult Education Resource Library (\$800 value).
- Belinda Porter, Urbana, donated three theme boxes for classroom units and projects to Washington School (\$277 value).
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program had 19 volunteers donate a total of 483 hours during the 2006-07 school year.
- Mayhaven Publishing donated 24 books to various District 116 libraries (valued at \$394.80).
- The Illini After 5 Rotary Club donated a student dictionary to every third grade student in District 116.

Director of Business Carol Baker presented the board the preliminary 2007 Tax Levy (payable in 2008). The board approved the preliminary \$25.6 million levy. Baker will now go about publishing notices of the levy and there will be a public hearing and formal adoption of the levy at a the December 18 meeting. Dimit says the Urbana School District has the second-lowest combined school tax rate in Champaign County. If you have any questions about the tax levy, please contact Ms. Baker.

The District 116 board then approved a renewal of the contract with the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District at a cost of \$144,652. Dimit says it is the most cost effective means to transport school students.

Director of Facilities Ota Dossett presented the school board with \$321,502 of life safety work to be done in several District 116 school buildings. The board approved the request.

Public Relations Coordinator Mark Schultz then informed the board of three activities taking place in District 116. Urbana High School will host the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Dinner at UHS this Thursday from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Thomas Paine Elementary families recently collected food to be distributed to other families at Thomas Paine who have a need. The Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities Program at Yankee Ridge is collecting Lego blocks for their students to use and learn behavioral skills. Those interested in donating blocks, please contact Yankee Ridge.

Superintendent Dr. Preston Williams presented John Dimit with an inscribed crystal apple commemorating his 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education.

The board adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.