

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis**  
***December 18, 2007***

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order by President Mark Netter at 6:33 p.m. There were six members present (Cope Cumpston absent).

During citizen comments Brian Adams of Urbana asked several questions regarding the demolition of 908 S. Race Street. Netter said they would address his questions when the agenda item came up for discussion.

C.K. Gunsalus and Mary Klein from the Urbana Alumni Association announced and presented the Fall 2007 Grant Recipients. The grant recipients are:

- Martha Rinne - \$865 - expand the Spanish Language Collection UMS Library
- Kevin Erlinger - \$3,300 - replace mobile laptop batteries
- Ellen Ulrick - \$2,000 - Evelyn Burnett Underwood Music Assistance Program - to purchase new instruments and repair older ones
- Karen Hollett - \$500 - sensory cart at UMS
- Tracy Welch (Nancy Clinton accepted) - \$3,000 - 6th grade literacy collection

In further commendations the board announced several UHS music students were selected and participated in the IMEA District III Jazz and Concert Festivals. Their participation was determined by an audition completed in October. Upon completion of the IEMA District III Concert Festival, the highest ranking students were selected to participate in the IMEA All-State Festival. This Festival will be held in Peoria in January of 2008. The honorees are:

- Julie Weatherhead - Concert Band, Clarinet
- Peter Deal - Concert Band, Trombone
- Samantha Schwartz - Orchestra, Flute/Piccolo
- Aaron Schwartz - Orchestra, Violin I
- Liesel Booth - All-State Alto I
- Timothy Sands - All-State Honors Choir, Tenor I

President Mark Netter said he received a communication from a UHS Alum stating concern/opposition to online courses being offered at UHS. Netter said there are no plans to offer online courses.

The District 116 board received on first reading the Urbana Middle School Improvement Plan. It will be formally adopted at the January 15, 2008 board meeting. For more information about the plan please contact Don Owen at the Central Office or Nancy Clinton at UMS.

The board then voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda that included the minutes of the November 20 and December 4, 2007 meetings, the November 30<sup>th</sup> bills and checks, an interfund loan from working cash to the transportation fund, various personnel items, the Xerographic Paper Bid of \$21,648, the IKON Office Solutions Copier Equipment and Printshop Management Services Bid of \$11,024 per month, and the Washington Early Childhood Curriculum.

The board accepted the following gifts and instructed staff to thank the following:

Tri-Star Marketing, Inc., Super Pantry 06, Urbana, donated \$500 to the Leal Elementary School.

Evelyn Kesler, Urbana, donated two winter coats and a wool sweater to the

Urbana School District. They were given to the Urbana High School for a student that may need a winter coat.

The Urbana Middle School received an anonymous donation of \$1,000. This donation will be used for academic purposes to strengthen the educational programs for all students at Urbana Middle School.

On behalf of the Urbana American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71, Starr Dalton donated \$50 worth of gloves and mittens to be distributed throughout the Urbana School District.

C-U Optimist Club donated \$1,500 to the Urbana Middle School. This donation will be used for character Education/Student of the Month programs at Urbana Middle School.

Kristi Davin, Tennessee, donated \$1,115.46 worth of board games (64) for the Before and After School Child Care Program. This is the fifth year she has given this type of donation to this program.

Champaign County Farm Bureau, Champaign, donated \$1,000 to the Urbana Ag and FFA account at Urbana High School.

Boardmembers voted unanimously to demolish the property at 908 South Race Street. Netter and John Dimit both toured the building and reported that it is in very poor condition and beyond salvaging or renting.

The board voted unanimously to grant permission to Director of Facilities, Ota Dossett, to proceed forward by completing the bid documents and place early bid for Summer 2008 work.

Superintendent Preston Williams reported to the board that Winter Break begins December 22, and students return to school January 7. Williams also asked UHS Principal Laura Taylor to brief the board on the tragic death of Sarah Reed. Taylor told the board that the school will hold a memorial service for Reed December 20, at 3:30 at the high school.

The District 116 board held a public hearing on the 2007 Tax Levy. There were no comments. The board then approved the 2007 Tax Levy for 25.6 million dollars. If you have questions about the tax levy, please contact Carol Baker at the Central Office.

The District 116 Board of Education adjourned at 7:33 p.m. The next board of education meeting will be Tuesday, January 8, 2008, and 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.