

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis
January 15, 2008**

The Urbana School District #116 Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. The board approved the agenda and there were no public comments.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Gayle Jeffries, presented a proposal to the school board about District 116 performing fingerprinting for criminal background checks within the district. Currently the school district works with the Unit 4 Family Information Center to fingerprint volunteers and new hires in Urbana School District #116. Jeffries says even with the purchase of the fingerprinting machine and hiring a part-time staffer, District 116 will save between 20,000 and 30,000 dollars annually if this procedure is done in-house. Administrators recommend that the school board approve this proposal. Several school board members indicated support for the plan. The school board will formally vote on Jeffries' proposal at its February 5 meeting.

The school board then approved the consent agenda including:

- Minutes from the December 18 and January 8 meetings
- The January Bills and Checks
- Interfund loans
- Personnel items

Board members were then briefed on recent gifts donated to the school district. The board voted to accept the following gifts:

- Dr. Samir Sayegh, Champaign, provided eye exams for fifteen students from Urbana Middle School and Wiley Elementary. This donation of time was valued at \$500.
- Barbara Huffman, Carle Hospital, Urbana, donated thirty pedometers to be used by students and staff during their exercise/walking routines. This donation was valued at \$200.
- Victor Treat and Sons, Inc., donated \$100 to the Urbana FFA at Urbana High School.
- Deborah Katz-Downie, Urbana, donated a variety of board games to the 1st and 3rd grade classrooms at Leal Elementary School. This donation was valued at \$50.

The School Board voted all in favor to approve an easement at Prairie Elementary School for a storm sewer extension. The extension is for future development in the area. For more information, contact Ota Dossett.

Board members then approved unanimously the Middle School Improvement Plan. This plan is to address the sub-group that did not meet AYP under the No Child Left Behind Act. For more information please contact UMS Principal Nancy Clinton or Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Don Owen.

Owen briefed the school board on the Title I plan and the requirement to report the plan to the Illinois State Board of Education. District 116 has always had a plan to spend Title I funds. However, the state board of education has finally adopted a format on how to arrange the data and send it to the state. Owen reported that the district has been able to meet state reporting requirements.

Public Relations Specialist Mark Schultz reported to the school board about various Martin Luther King, Junior activities taking place in District 116 schools. Please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/pressreleases/pr080114drking.pdf> for more information. Schultz also reported to the school board that the district is now publishing a monthly online newsletter to inform the public about events taking place in Urbana School District schools.

The school board adjourned into executive session at 7:56 p.m. The board did not take any action following the executive session.

The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., 205 North Race Street, Urbana.