

**MINUTES  
STUDY SESSION  
URBANA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER  
February 5, 2008  
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. Benita Rollins-Gay, Secretary Pro-Tem  
Ms. Brenda Carter, Member  
Ms. Cope Cumpston, 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: Mr. Steve Summers, Member

**3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

**4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS**

**5.0 CALL FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING/SESSION (After Current Meeting)**

**6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Vice-President Dimit moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Secretary Fisher. Motion passed.*

## **7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS**

The Board of Education and District Administration made a special presentation to teachers that have achieved the status of being a National Board Certified Teacher. Those that will be recognized: Marcy Vancil, Jill Shoda, Phyllis Gingold, Alexis Jones, Susan Gleason, Nancy Fehr, Judith Pece, Carol Casbeer, Mark Freedman, Judy Powell, Evelyn Walton, Jeanne Ward, Phyllis Peete, Julie Erlinger, Glenna Rogers, Paula Rogers, Beth Mears, and Frank Modica.

## **8.0 POLICY REVIEW**

## **9.0 PUBLIC HEARING**

## **10.0 STUDY TOPICS**

### **10.01 Technology Update and Needs Review**

John Morrow, Director of Instructional Technology, told the Board of Education that the technology department has a grand dream for the future. He quoted Kathy Barbour from a previous technology meeting saying, “We dream big because our students deserve it.” John said the vision for district technology is to be innovators, and to teach students to use cutting edge technology so they can be successful in the world.

Several teachers (early childhood through high school) demonstrated how they use technology in the classroom to help their students learn. After the presentation Assistant Superintendent Don Owen said that the technology in the classroom isn’t some attention-getter, it is a “best practice learning tool.”

John Morrow said the challenges facing the technology department at this time are accessing new technologies, training workers and certified staff on those technologies, and providing ongoing support in schools. The barriers facing the district technology improvements, he said, are quality of service, poor bandwidth, old equipment, and a small support staff.

He expressed his thanks to the board for helping find the funds to upgrade technology for the school district. He said he’d like to spend \$323,000 per year in upgrading staff workstations on a rotating basis, and \$411,000 per year in upgrading student technology on a rotating basis; however he realizes he’s “dreaming big.” Mr. Morrow asked the board to help the district’s technology staff by developing revenue resources, advocating for resources, providing a guiding vision, and providing a financial commitment to district technology. Several board members expressed their gratitude to the district’s technology staff and acknowledged the importance of technology. Superintendent Williams said it’s time for the board to “bite the bullet” and earmark money to essential district technology.

## **11.0 ACTION ITEMS (Consent/Individual)**

*Vice-President Dimit moved to approve as consent items, #11.01, #11.02, and #11.04. This motion was seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. On a roll call, all members present voted “aye”. Motion passed. Absent: S.Summers*

Individual  
Item

**11.01 Fingerprinting Proposal**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Gayle Jeffries requested approval for a new fingerprinting proposal that was presented to the Board of Education January 15, 2008.

**11.02 Revised 2008-2009 School Calendar**

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, requested approval for the revised 2008-2009 school calendar. The Board of Education received this for review on January 15, 2008.

**11.03 Board of Education Closed Meeting Confidentiality**

The Board of Education reviewed closed meeting minutes to determine if the need for confidentiality still exists for all or part of the minutes, or what minutes or portion thereof no longer require confidentiality and are available for public inspection.

*Vice-President Dimit moved release September 4, 2007 closed minutes. All other minutes will remain closed. This motion was seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.*

**11.04 Title I District Improvement Plan**

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, requested approval for the Title I District Improvement Plan. This plan was given to the Board of Education on January 15, 2008 for review.

**12.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS**

**13.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Williams reported that the Girls Basketball team won the Big 12 conference title, the UHS Alumni Association's "Cash Bash" was February 16, District 116 is holding its Cultural Festival February 22, and the All-District Music Program is February 11.

Dr. Williams also announced that Jim Graham, former District 116 teacher, coach, and athletic director passed away. Arrangements were pending.

**14.0 BOARD REPORT**

**15.0 ADJOURNMENT**

*Member Cumpston moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Secretary Fisher. Motion passed.*

*President Netter declared the meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.*

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President

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Secretary