

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis
February 19, 2008**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. There were no citizen statements.

The board recognized the following students who attended the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference: All State Choir - Liesel Booth; Honors Choir - Timothy Sands; Honors Orchestra (Piccolo) - Samantha Schwartz, All-State Orchestra (Violin I) - Aaron Schwartz; Honors Band (Trombone) - Peter Deal; All-State Band (Clarinet) - Julie Weatherhead.

The board then heard a presentation by Mary Kane of Stifel, Nicolaus and Company about the state law entitled the County School Facility Sales Tax. The state law, passed in October of 2007, allows a county to levy up to a 1% sales tax (except for cars, boats, RVs, mobile homes, food, drugs, farm equipment, and farm parts). The revenue from the tax would be proportionally distributed to all public schools in the county to be used for school district land, buildings, structures, and durable equipment. Kane says if a 1% sales tax is levied, District 116 could see \$3.1 million per year. The money could be used for "pay as you go" projects, to leverage revenue for current needs, to retire existing debt, or for any combination of the former. The County School Facility Sales Tax would have to be approved in a referendum by county voters and it would require cooperation between all county public school districts. The school board heard the presentation and plans to continue researching the issue.

The board also approved the consent agenda that included:

- Minutes of the January 15 and February 5 meetings
- February bills and checks
- Interfund Loans
- Personnel Items
- March 30 Bills for Payment

The school board also gratefully accepted the following gifts:

Anastasia Dillman, Champaign, donated a 3/4 cello, 3/4 bow and case, and a copy of Faciebat Anno (1719) made in USA 1996 #4R470 to the Urbana High School Band Department. This donation was valued at \$800.00.

John Dimit, Urbana, donated three books to the Urbana High School Library, valued at \$50.00.

The Evelyn Burnett Underwood Instrumental Music Assistance Program at Urbana Middle School has received the following donations: Deborah Katz-Downie, Urbana - Saxophone (\$600); Jan Grace, Urbana - Clarinet (\$300); and an anonymous donation - New Alto Saxophone (\$1,300).

Patterson Office Supply, Helen, Stauffer, Champaign, donated paper products and other miscellaneous give-aways to Yankee Ridge Elementary School. This donation was valued at \$281.

Meijer, Champaign, donated a \$100 gift card to the Yankee Ridge EBD Resource Room to purchase educational items for the classroom.

Deborah and Steven Katz-Downie, Urbana, donated a stereo system to Urbana Middle School Band Program, with an estimated value of \$1,000 or more.

Steve Ruhlig, Human Kinetics Publishers, donated ten classroom sets of health books (K-5 and spec. ed.). This donation was valued at \$5,000.

In the Superintendent's Report, Public Relations Specialist Mark Schultz briefed the school board of the upcoming Black History Month "Cultural Fest 2008" and the UHS Guest Artist Concert both being held February 22. Schultz also informed the school board that he is working on a promotional brochure to be used in the community. Schultz reminded the school board and the public to be sure to check out the USD website at www.usd116.org for updated feature stories.

In the board report, Benita Rollins-Gay complimented the NAAPID programs as well as Dr. Williams' NAAPID speech. Brenda Carter complimented the UHS Choir for an excellent performance during the Urbana 175th Anniversary kick-off at Urbana City Hall. Cope Cumpston was a guest at the Urbana Rotary Club and she reported that the UHS Interact Club had a very nice presentation.

The board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be March 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., at 205 North Race Street, Urbana.