

**MINUTES  
STUDY SESSION  
URBANA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER  
April 1, 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: Mark Netter, President  
John Dimit, Vice-President  
Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary  
Benita Rollins-Gay, Secretary Pro Tem  
Brenda Carter, Board Member  
Cope Cumpston, Board Member  
Steve Summers, Board Member

Also Present: Preston L. Williams, Jr., Superintendent  
Don Owen, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction  
Gayle Jeffries, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Susan Baker-Ory, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services  
Carol Baker, Director of Business

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

**Item 7.01 was withdrawn from the agenda.**

**4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS**

Jean Ascoli addressed the board inviting members to a meeting about Green (environmentally friendly) Schools. The presentation will be April 9, 2008, at Faith United Methodist Church in Champaign at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Evelyn Underwood questioned and criticized the Urbana High School Restructuring Plan.

Maloney stated that there are several citizens and groups available to help increase academic achievement in District 116.

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

**6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Vice-President Dimit moved to approve the agenda as modified, seconded by Member Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.*

**7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS**

**7.01 Presentation of Urbana Alumni Association Grant Recipients**

Representatives from the Urbana Alumni Association will be present to announce and recognize the grant recipients for the Spring of 2004.

**withdrawn**

**8.0 POLICY REVIEW**

**9.0 PUBLIC HEARING**

**10.0 ACTION ITEMS (Consent)**

*Vice-President Dimit moved to approve the following consent action item, seconded by Member Carter. On a roll call, all members present voted "aye." Motion passed.*

**10.01 Illinois High School Association Resolution**

Board approval was requested to renew the district's membership with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA).

**11.0 STUDY TOPIC(S)**

**11.01 Illinois Safe Routes to School Network Local School Project**

Cynthia Hoyle, MTD, made a presentation to the Board of Education about Illinois Safe Routes to School Network Local School Project. King Elementary was selected as the state network's model project site.

The project will examine ways to make it safer for students to walk and bike to school. This month there will be a community meeting to discuss the Safe Routes to School Program and begin to build a School Team for the project. The project officially launches this August. The Safe Routes to School Project will provide materials, curriculum, and guidance for implementing the Safe Routes to School Program at King. This project will be community-driven and will not cost

the taxpayers any money. Member Rollins-Gay praised the MTD and King Elementary for winning this competitive grant. Member Dimit echoed those sentiments calling this project “a big score.” For every 10 requests for a Safe Routes to School Project, only one was awarded. For more information about safe routes to school, please see [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org), or call King Elementary Principal Jennifer Ivory-Tatum.

#### **11.02 UHS Restructuring Plan**

Don Owen, Laura Taylor, and Greg Chew, gave the Board of Education an overview of the Urbana High School Restructuring Plan. This was the first reading. Approval will be requested at the April 15, 2008, BOE Business Meeting.

This restructuring plan is mandated by the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. The restructuring plan includes:

- Modify the school day to include additional student support for those who need It
- Have teachers collaborate on ways to increase student achievement
- Survey staff, students, and parents about school climate and student support
- Provide for additional staff development
- Create a Director of Student Achievement and Accountability

Several board members had questions about the Director of Student Achievement and Accountability position and suggested that the job description be modified and clarified. Member Rollins-Gay expressed concerns about the Restructuring Plan saying it “needs tweaking.” After requested approval on April 15, 2008, the plan will then go to the Regional Office of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education for approval.

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

#### **13.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **14.0 ADJOURNMENT**

*Vice-President Dimit moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Summers. Motion passed.*

*President Netter declared the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.*

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**President**

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**Secretary**