

MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JEAN F. BURKHOLDER
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER
April 15, 2008
7:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Netter called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Mark Netter, President
John Dimit, Vice-President
Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary
Brenda Carter, Member
Cope Cumpston, Member
Steve Summers, Member

Others Present: Preston L. Williams, Jr., Superintendent
Don Owen, Assistant Superintendent
Gayle Jeffries, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources
Carol Baker, Director of Business
Susan Baker-Ory, Assistant Superintendent Spec Services
Ota Dossett, Director of Grounds and Facilities

Absent: Benita Rollins-Gay, Secretary Pro Tem

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AGENDA

The following modifications were made to the agenda:

- * Item 12.07 moved to be item 7.02
- * Items 12.02, 12.03, 12.04 and 12.05 moved to consent agenda to be items 11.08, 11.09, 11.10, and 11.11

4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS

Dr. Sandra Cato spoke to the board in support of the High School Restructuring.

Reverend Doctor Evelyn Underwood spoke against the restructuring plan and she read a letter by Robert Lewis that was also critical of the plan.

Tatiana Mayes read a letter to the board on behalf of her mother, Carol Ammons, in support of the High School Restructuring Plan.

5.0 CALL FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING/SESSION (AFTER CURRENT MEETING)

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve the modified agenda, seconded by Member Cumpston. Motion passed.

7.0 COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

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 2008.

The grant recipients were:

For UMS:

- \$1000 to purchase Smart Board Technology for the Multi Purpose Room. (Nancy Clinton)
- \$1125 to purchase replacement letters for the UHS / UMS score boards. (Jeremy Darnall and Greg Hall)
- \$195 to purchase theatre tickets for Reading Dimension students. (Leslie McClintock) (Half of request.)
- \$648 to purchase one Elmo HV110U Machine for the Endeavor Team. (Myrtle Followell) (Partial request, please apply again next year.)
- \$785.40 to purchase two Benchmark Education Reader's Theater Sets to use with Reading Dimension students. (Leslie McClintock)

For UHS:

- \$600 to purchase equipment for the Boy's Track Team. Submitted by Willie Taylor. (half of the cost.)
- \$696 to purchase free standing display panels for display purposes. Submitted by Matthew Murrey for the library and art departments.
- \$4600 to purchase computer equipment for the library. Submitted by Matthew Murrey.
- \$360 to pay International High School Video Conference Fees. Submitted by Carol Godoy and the UHS International High School Committee.
- \$180 to pay expenses for the Urbana FFA to attend a conference. Submitted by Mike Martin.
- \$2000 to pay expenses for fees for the Big 12 Golf Tournament at the Urbana Golf and Country Club. Submitted by Greg Hall

7.02 UHS Restructuring Plan

Don Owen, Assistant Superintendent, requested approval of the Urbana High School Restructuring Plan to be submitted to Regional Office of Education.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Don Owen, and Principal Dr. Laura Taylor reviewed the plan that was originally presented April 1. 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

An extensive debate over the position of Director of Student Achievement and Accountability. Administrators estimate the salary of such a director would be paid \$70,000. Members Cope Cumpston, Ruth Ann Fisher, and Brenda Carter expressed opposition to the position. Members Mark Netter and John Dimit expressed support. Member Steve Summers expressed reluctant support.

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve item 7.02, seconded by Member Summers. On a roll call vote, motion failed on a 3-3 vote (member Benita Rollins-Gay was absent). Aye – Dimit, Summer, Netter. Nay – Carter, Cumpston, Fisher.

Member Carter moved to approve item 7.02, amending it by submitting the plan without the proposed position of Director of Student Achievement and Accountability. This motion was seconded by Member Fisher. Motion passed. Aye – Carter, Cumpston, Fisher, Netter. Nay – Dimit. Abstained – Summers.

Member Fisher moved to take a five minute recess, seconded by Member Carter. President Netter declared a five minute recess at 9:47 p.m. President Netter re-convened the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

8.0 SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS

9.01 116 Iowa Street Property

The Board of Education discussed the future use of 116 West Iowa Street property, based on cost to rehab. The options were to demolish the property or to refurbish it (at a cost of \$37,000 - \$40,000) and rent it out. The board indicated that it is not economically feasible to refurbish the property, and indicated that the district should demolish the property. Administrators will come back to the board at a later date with a resolution for demolition.

9.02 Sale Tax Discussion

The Board of Education discussed the proposed sales tax referendum. They discussed the possibility of a countywide sales tax that will generate revenue for building projects. 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. 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 Board of Education indicated that it would support asking the Champaign County Board to put a referendum on the ballot asking for a referendum on this November’s ballot. The Board of Education will formally consider and vote on such a resolution to deliver to the county board at a future meeting.

10.0 REPORTS

11.0 ACTION ITEMS (Consent)

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve the following consent items, seconded by Member Cumpston. On a roll call vote, all members present voted “aye.” Motion passed unanimously. Absent: Rollins-Gay

11.01 Minutes

- Business Meeting, February 19, 2008
- Study Session, March 4, 2008
- Special Meeting, March 25, 2008
- Study Session, April 1, 2008

11.02 March Bills/Checks (Pre-Approved at February 19, 2008 meeting)

Education Fund bill.....	\$1,559,685.36
Operating & Maintenance Fund bills.....	\$ 129,903.63
Bond & Interest Fund bills.....	\$ 0.00
Transportation Fund bills.....	\$ 180,871.03
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund bills.....	\$ 69,019.64
Construction Fund bills.....	\$ 0.00
Construction Fund bills (working cash).....	\$ 42,569.50
Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds.....	\$ 0.00
Fire Prevention and Safety (Levy).....	\$ 2,367.50
Payroll.....	\$2,357,882.45
Adult Education bills.....	\$ 153,245.80

April Bills/Checks

Education Fund bill.....	\$1,645,359.32
Operating & Maintenance Fund bills.....	\$ 104,496.50
Bond & Interest Fund bills.....	\$ 0.00
Transportation Fund bills.....	\$ 159,793.59
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund bills.....	\$ 69,760.15
Construction Fund bills.....	\$ 0.00
Construction Fund bills (working cash).....	\$ 15,395.00
Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds.....	\$ 0.00
Fire Prevention and Safety (Levy).....	\$ 170.00
Payroll.....	\$2,377,612.96
Adult Education Bills.....	\$ 156,146.15

11.03 Interfund Loans

The following interfund loans will be required to cover the necessary operating costs of the school district until the next meeting of the Board of Education:

<u>Loan From</u>	<u>Loan To</u>	<u>Amount of Loan</u>
Working Cash Fund	Education Fund	\$2,000,000
Working Cash Fund	Transportation Fund	\$ 300,000
Working Cash Fund	Operations & Maint.	\$ 400,000

11.04 Personnel Items

Approval of various personnel items were requested.

11.05 Appointment of School Treasurer

Approval was requested to appoint Michael Cain as the district's school treasurer for the 2008-2009 school year at a salary of \$5,200.

11.06 Appointment of School Auditor

Approval was requested to appoint BKD, LLP as auditors for the 2007-2008 audit, fee of \$35,500.

11.07 Summer School Dates

Gayle Jeffries, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources requested approval of the 2008 Summer School dates: June 11, 2008 through July 22, 2008.

11.08 District Wide Cleaning Contract Extension

Approval was requested to extend the current cleaning contract with Environmental Solutions and Services (ESS) for the 2008-2009 school year with an increase of \$30,787. Please see attached memorandum for explanation.

11.09 Life Safety Amendment King Library Asbestos Removal

Approval was requested of a life safety amendment for asbestos removal and carpet replacement in the King Elementary Library.

11.10 Life Safety Asbestos Removal Bid Recommendation
Approval was requested to award the removal of asbestos floor tile at King Elementary and Prairie Elementary Schools bid to DEM Services, Bellwood, IL. for \$105,200.

11.11 Track Resurfacing Bid Recommendation
Approval was requested to award the resurfacing of the track at Urbana High School bid to Midwest Track Builders for \$47,777.

12.0 ACTION ITEMS (Individual)

12.01 Gifts

Member Cumpston moved to approve and accept the following gifts, seconded by Secretary Fisher. Motion passed.

Anthony Bailey, Hubertus, Wisconsin, donated a variety of photographic equipment to the Urbana High School photo classroom. This donation has an \$800 value.

Buffalo Wild Wings, Champaign, donated \$100 worth of Buffalo Wild Wings to Washington Early Childhood for NAAPID.

Meijer, Champaign, donated a \$100 gift card to Washington Early Childhood to use for NAAPID food purchases.

The following individuals are responsible for the new baseball infield at Prairie Park for the Urbana High School Baseball Program:

Marty Kirby: funded the purchase of the new infield surface (Pro Surface);
Dennis McTaggart – Farmers Ag Service: provided a semi-tractor trailer to haul the material from Northern Illinois, including the driver and fuel;
Tim Ingram – Ingram Nurseries: time and labor for installation.

12.02 District Wide Cleaning Contract Extension
Approval will be requested to extend the current cleaning contract with Environmental Solutions and Services (ESS) for the 2008-2009 school year with an increase of \$30,787. Please see attached memorandum for explanation.

12.03 Life Safety Amendment King Library Asbestos Removal
Approval will be requested of a life safety amendment for asbestos removal and carpet replacement in the King Elementary Library.

12.04 Life Safety Asbestos Removal Bid Recommendation
Approval will be requested to award the removal of asbestos floor tile at King Elementary and Prairie Elementary Schools bid to DEM Services, Bellwood, IL. for \$105,200.

Moved to Consent Agenda

12.05 Track Resurfacing Bid Recommendation
Approval will be requested toward the resurfacing of the track at Urbana High School bid to Midwest Track Builders for \$47,777.

12.06 Transportation Bid Recommendation
Carol Baker, Director of Finance, requested approval of a transportation bid.

12.07 UHS Restructuring Plan
Don Owen, Superintendent, requested approval of the Urbana High School Restructuring Plan to be submitted to Regional Office of Education.

Member Summers left at 10:28 p.m.

12.08 Choir Trip Contribution
Urbana High School Honors Choir (40 students) requested approval of a monetary contribution toward their upcoming trip to Sandusky, Ohio to participate in a Choral Music Festival.

No motion made – no action.

Member Cumpston left at 10:49 p.m.

12.09 Board Building Improvement Plan/Summer Work Plans 2008
Approval was requested for work during the 2008 Summer.

Vice-President Dimit moved to approve item #12.09, seconded by Member Carter. On a roll call vote, all members present voted “aye.” Motion passed unanimously. Absent: Rollins-Gay.

13.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

14.0 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Carol Baker, Director of Finance, reported that the Illinois State Board of Education has placed District 116 into the Financial Recognition range – the highest designation for a school district. ISBE praised District 116 for achieving “excellent financial results.”

15.0 BOARD REPORT(S)

16.0 ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-President Dimit. Motion passed.

President Netter declared the meeting adjourned at 11:29 p.m.

President

Secretary