

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis  
May 6, 2008**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by board president Mark Netter. The board had met in executive session at 6:30 to discuss pending litigation and personnel.

Two people spoke to the board during citizen statements. Lawyer David Strube from Chicago spoke to the board on behalf of his client, Illinois Central School Bus, in regard to the District 116 transportation bid process. Reverend Doctor Evelyn Underwood of Urbana also addressed the Board of Education regarding the High School Restructuring plan.

Gail Rost of the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation announced the recipients for the Spring of 2008. The recipients are:

**\$3963.00**

Lily Jimenez

**Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month**

Funding from this grant will purchase literature books that are relevant to Latino culture to be available in the classrooms and libraries at these 3 schools. The books will be in Spanish and bilingual format so that all students can benefit. Additionally the funding will bring a Latino Cultural performance group to the schools for assemblies.

**Emphasis: Cultural Appreciation/Bilingual Literacy**

Washington Early Childhood, /Leal School/Urbana Middle School  
1102 N. Broadway  
Urbana, IL. 61801

**\$2250.00**

Carol Godoy and Carol Buriak

**UHS Global Learning Project**

Funding will reinstate an interactive videoconferencing program for students to discuss current global events with other students and experts regarding issues and problems in other parts of the world. The grant will also help bring cultural assemblies to the high school through a partnership with the Spurlock Museum.

*Fully Funded by the CUSF Carle Foundation Hospital Endowment for Educational Excellence*

**Emphasis: Global Understanding/Communication skills**

Urbana High School  
1002 S. Race St.  
Urbana, IL. 61801

**\$4000.00**

Ellen Elrick

**Achievement in Music (AIM): Excellence for all Students**

This grant will help to fund small group music instruction, interactive practice and assessment software, guest artists and field trips to live performances. The goal is to help low income students excel in music on a par with middle and upper income students.

**Emphasis: Music**

Urbana Middle School

1204 S. Vine St.  
Urbana, IL. 61801

**\$3365.61**

Jennifer Rohn

**Rewards Plus for UMS**

The special education department will be able to add a new Science and Social Studies component to its current Rewards reading system. Named Rewards Plus it will supplement the current Rewards program with high interest, low level, research based reading materials in the areas of science and social studies.

**Emphasis: Special Education Reading and Science**

Urbana Middle School

1201 S. Vine St.

Urbana, IL. 61801

**\$2025.19**

Betty Allen

**Balinese Gamelan and Dance**

Funds will bring a multicultural music and dance performance to all students in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade through the fine arts program at each of the grade schools in Urbana. The Balinese Gamelan and Dance performers will give hand-on workshops for students following the performance. Books and CD's will be included as a teaching resource.

**Emphasis: Fine Arts Enrichment**

Yankee Ridge, Flossie Wiley, Leal, Prairie, Thomas Paine, Martin Luther King Jr.

Elementary Schools

2102 S. Anderson St.

Urbana, IL. 61801

Art in the Library – \$444.64

Matt Murray

I Read Project: UMS – \$488

Martha Rinne

Phase II: Spanish Language Collection Development Project @ UMS – \$500

Martha Rinne

Classroom Jeopardy! – \$459

Kay Bell

Sensory Motor Kits for RTI – \$499.50

Joelle Walden

Kids Saving Kids – \$320

Christopher Bazzell

Differentiated Literacy in African-American History – \$447.28

Mark Foley

A Library of Higher Interest – \$495.96

Mark Foley

The school board then approved the consent agenda consisting of the following items:

- Approval of Life Safety Amendments for Summer 2008 totaling \$131,900
- Approval of Board Building Improvements for 2008 totaling \$53,260
- Request of Emergency Funds to help repair the UHS auditorium ceiling totaling \$20,000
- Authorize Auditorium Remodel Consultant Search
- Various Personnel Items
- Appointment of Jill B. Berkeley as counsel to render an opinion on the District's insurance coverage.

The District 116 board approved a resolution authorizing a second notice to remedy for a District 116 employee.

Board members voted 6-0 to approve a Resolution on the Use of Revenue from the County School Facility Occupation Tax. This resolution pledges the school board's commitment to using revenue from the building sales tax. The board pledges to use one-third of the revenue (approximately \$1,000,000) to be used for property tax relief. The rest will be used for ongoing building improvements.

The school board then voted 6-0 to approve a Resolution Requesting Champaign County Board to Impose 1% Sales Tax for School Facility Purposes. Several other school districts in Champaign County have passed a similar resolution.

The board then heard a staff recommendation that the district approve the bid for First Student to be the District 116 Transportation Contractor. Members voted 6-0 to approve the First Student bid.

Under study topics, the board heard the improvement plans for each elementary school. The board heard from all elementary principals (except for Dr. Ivory-Tatum from King School due to a scheduling conflict. Dr. Ivory-Tatum will present her report at a later date). For more information about these reports, please contact the building principals.

Superintendent Dr. Preston Williams, Jr., then asked Jean Korder, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment to explain the Think Link and DIBELS assessment programs. Susan Baker-Ory explained the Response to Intervention (RTI) program. RTI is currently used at the elementary level, but Baker-Ory says the hope is for the program to move to the secondary levels. For more information about the District 116 assessment process, please see <http://www.usd116.org/home/cia/assessment.html>.

Carol Baker then reported to the school board about the passing of Harold Miller. Miller was affiliated with District 116 for over 50 years, including time serving as a school board member and as District 116 counsel. Miller's service will be this Thursday afternoon at 4:00 at the Presbyterian Church in Urbana.

During the School Board Report, Cope Cumpston said that she is involved in the Dual Language Task Force and studying the implications of dual language. She also reported that she and Mark Netter recently attended a meeting at Leal Elementary with the

student group Health School Lunch. Mark Netter reported to the board that he and John Dimit will be attending the Champaign County Board Policy Committee Meeting as it considers the County Sales Tax question.

The Board of Education adjourned at 9:39 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting will be Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.