

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis**  
**June 3, 2008**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order by Board President Mark Netter at 7:33 p.m. In public comments, Devin Chambers asked the board about teacher qualifications. Superintendent Dr. Preston Williams, Jr., told Chambers that he would mail the material to his address.

The District 116 School Board then honored the retiring teachers who will be leaving the school district at the end of this week. The board presented a gift of appreciation to Mary Beth, Cecilia Bridges, Mary Brooks, Carolyn Brown, Cheryl Milewski, Laura Morrison, and Marcy Vancil. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Gayle Jeffries says the teachers retiring represent over 200 years of combined experience in District 116 classrooms.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, presented a first reading to the school board regarding the updated internet safety policy. The board will formally vote on the policy at its June 17, 2008, meeting.

Board members approved the following consent agenda:

- Various personnel items
- Board Policy 6.213 regarding the Education of Children with Disabilities
- Board Policy 6.214 regarding the Education of Homeless Children
- Board Policy 6.215 regarding the Education of Migrant Students
- A proposed amendment to the Superintendent's Contract

For more information about the board policies, please contact Don Owen. For more information about the Superintendent's Contract, please contact Gayle Jeffries.

The school board then heard about the school improvement plans from King Elementary School (Dr. Ivory-Tatum), Urbana Middle School (Ms. Clinton), and Urbana High School (Dr. Taylor). The reports focused on the school goals, what each building did to implement those goals and the new goals for the coming year. For more information about the school improvement plans, please contact the building principals.

Under the superintendent's report, representatives from King and Thomas Paine Elementary Schools presented survey data for a balanced calendar, or year around school. Each school took this project on by themselves and not at the direction of the school board. Both schools surveyed parents in the two schools, trying to gauge interest in balanced calendar at the elementary level. Each parent group expressed interest in continuing to research the matter. Many board members—including Benita Rollins-Gay, John Dimit, Mark Netter, and Cope Cumpston spoke in favor of a balanced calendar. Having received a sense of the board, the two buildings will continue to research the concept, costs, and other issues surrounding a balanced calendar.

The school board briefly discussed the development and charge for a group to serve on a facilities planning committee for District 116. The school board will revisit the issue at a later date.

The board of education adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be held June 17, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.