

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Agenda August 19, 2008

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. There were six in attendance (Benita Rollins-Gay was absent).

There were two citizen statements. Reverend Dr. Evelyn Underwood congratulated UHS on making Adequate Yearly Progress; however she was "saddened" that there is still a disparity between African-American students and Caucasian students. She encouraged the school district to continue its efforts to close the achievement gap.

Terry Townsend spoke to the board about substitute pay. He supported the increase in substitute pay but was critical of the two-tiered system that pays more money to retired District 116 teachers who return to substitute.

Under the consent agenda the board approved 6-0:

- Minutes of the June 17, 2008 BOE meeting
- Minutes of the August 5, 2008 BOE study session
- June Bills/Checks
- July Bills/Checks
- August Bills/Checks
- Interfund Loans
- Various Personnel Items
- Authorization to hire Steve Sheffler as the new district attorney to handle wage garnishments

The board accepted the following gifts and authorized the district to write thank-you notes to:

- Jeff Facer, Area-Wide Technologies, donated \$1,000 to the Urbana High School for Professional Learning.
- Fair Oaks Ford, Naperville, donated a Ford World Wide Diagnosis System Analyzer to the Urbana High School Automotive Lab (\$10,000 value).
- Jennifer Frerichs, Gifford, donated a portable nebulizer and tubes to District 116 to be used in elementary schools as needed (\$10 value).
- Barb Sartain, Wiley Principal, donated materials to remodel her office to match the outer office that was recently remodeled by Techline (valued at \$3,249.80).
- C-U Elks Club, Savoy, donated a Lapel Inspiro Transmitter, MLXI Receivers, and audio shoes to CASE (valued at \$2,467.95).

The board voted to increase substitute pay. The proposal was to raise the pay for substitute teachers from \$75 to \$85 per day. After 10 days working in the district the pay would be raised to \$90. Retired teachers who return to the classroom as substitutes would see a raise from \$110 to \$125 per day if they choose to work in all the elementary schools. Those only wanting to work in one school would be paid \$120. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Gayle Jeffries, said that the tiered system is used because retired District 116 teachers already know the curriculum and procedures of Urbana School District so their extra experience will be reflected in their pay. The board vote was 5-1 with Ruth Ann Fisher voting "no."

The board voted 6-0 to renew its district insurance rates through Indiana Insurance.

Under superintendents report Mark Schultz briefed the board about an effort being undertaken by Harris Connect to gather information for a UHS Alumni Directory. Schultz also briefed the board about the new UPTV Program "Inside Urbana School District," that can be seen on UPTV-6 in Urbana. Schultz also reminded the public about the Urbana Football Scrimmage and fundraiser for Tiger Sports this Friday at the UHS Football Field.

UHS Principal Dr. Laura Taylor briefed the board about UHS making Adequate Yearly Progress. Taylor saluted the community effort and board support for helping student achievement at the high school. Dr. Taylor called the latest PSAE results "great progress."

Don Owen reported to the board that since UHS made AYP they do not have to institute the restructuring plan immediately. However, he says the district is moving ahead with the restructuring plan and process. He says the restructuring committee will meet again on Wednesday and that the committee has "made a lot of progress."

Under board report Mark Netter spoke about financial transparency. A sense of the board was to start making BOE financial reports as seen in the board information packets for each meeting accessible via the internet. Director of Business and Finance, Carol Baker, will move forward with that.

Member John Dimit spoke about the Sales Tax Referendum. He said that a campaign committee has been organized with Lin Warfel and Susan Abbott as co-chairs. He also says a group of Urbana citizens is organizing to help move this forward. Dimit encouraged all Urbana citizens to contact their county board representative and encourage them to put this question on the ballot.

The board adjourned into executive session at 8:15 p.m. There were no announcements after the executive session. The board then toured Prairie Elementary School and King Elementary School to see the results of the summer work. After the tour, the board adjourned for the evening.

The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be September 2, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street in Urbana.