

Urbana School District Board of Education Synopsis September 16, 2008

The Urbana School District 116 Board of Education meeting was called to order by board president Mark Netter at 7:31 PM. There were six members in attendance. Member Benita Rollins-Gay was absent.

There were no public statements. Under Commendations and Recognitions it was announced that the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation announced the Splash Grant recipients. Please be looking on our website www.usd116.org in the coming days and the grant recipient list will be posted.

The board of education then continued discussion about the high school restructuring plan. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, announced that Dr. Julia Johnson, Director of the Center for Education in Small Urban Communities and Dr. Lizanne Destafano, Associate Dean for the Bureau of Education Research, have agreed to serve on the District Improvement Monitoring Team. The board expressed support for that move. Owen also said that hiring a community facilitator would cost an estimated \$45,000. Most of the board members stated that the facilitator is not something they could support at this time, especially since it is not a required part of the restructuring plan in the eyes of the Illinois State Board of Education. The District 116 administration will rework the plan and present it at the next board meeting for a vote.

The board approved the consent agenda including the following items:

- Minutes of the August 19, 2008 meeting
- Minutes of the September 2, 2008 meeting
- September 30 bills and checks
- Various personnel items
- Resolution to demolish property at 104 Iowa
- Resolution to demolish property at 118 Iowa
- Disposal of District Bus
- Agreement for exchange of Real Estate (two foot tract of land near Leal School)
- Application for Recognition of schools

The board then accepted the following gifts:

- Terri Medwed of Mark Rood of Champaign donated an air hockey table to Urbana Middle School SPLASH program (\$600 value).
- Carl and Elsa Gunter, Urbana, donated \$375 to the 4th grade classroom of Craig Huff and Yvonne Vitosky at Leal Elementary. They also donated \$250 to the Adventurer's Team at UMS.
- Benches.com donated an Ellsworth Garden Bench for the Leal Elementary Playground (\$259 value).
- Camp Farm Management Inc., Champaign, made a cash donation of \$200 to the FFA account at UHS
- Renee and William Renfro, Urbana, donated an Olympus fE310 digital camera to the King Elementary Library (\$150 value).

Board members then voted to approve the \$55.8 million budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09. For more information about the budget, please see <http://www.usd116.org/home/budget.html>. Director of Business and Finance, Carol Baker, says she used the worst case scenario in making out the budget. She used the worst-case scenario of expenses and the worst-case scenario in revenues in coming up with the spending plan. The approved budget has a deficit of \$1.8 million. \$1 million of that is in building construction bonds that the school district already has, so it can't be reflected as new revenue. The other \$800,000 could be viewed as "real" deficit. However, Baker says as the fiscal year goes forward those numbers should improve. She notes that she has used this philosophy for the last several years and the district has always finished the year with a balanced budget or a surplus. Baker also says she is not using any Carle Property Tax revenue in this budget until that legal process is over. Baker says if she were to spend the Carle Property Tax revenue, the district would be in a surplus. Please contact Baker at 384-3600 if you have any more questions. Several board members praised Baker for her conservative budgeting.

The board also voted to approve the \$1.77 million budget for Urbana Adult Education. The budget has a small surplus. Board members praised Adult Education Director, Dr. David Adcock, for finding grant money in an age where government support for Adult Education is shrinking.

The school board voted to approve a request to put District 116 financial information online. If you wish to view District 116 financial information, please see <http://www.usd116.org/home/budget.html>.

Board members voted to transfer the balance (\$6,993) of the Jeffrey Kaufman Memorial Fund, maintained by the District, to the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation. The CUSF will now manage and assume responsibility of the fund.

The board voted 6-0 to dismiss "Employee A" subject to the Loudermill hearing in executive session.

Board member John Dimit briefed the board and the public regarding the 1% Sales Tax referendum. He says that Tina Gunsalus will be chairing the Urbana campaign committee and working with the county campaign committee. Dimit says there will be more informational items coming in the month of October.

Mark Netter commented that the District 116 Facilities Committee has an aggressive meeting schedule planned and will present an interim report to the board in November.

The Board of Education adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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