Board of Education Synopsis
October 7, 2008

The October 7, 2008, Board of Education meeting was called to order by President Mark Netter at 7:31 p.m. All members were in attendance.

During public comments, resident Robert Lewis spoke to the board stating his concerns with the UHS Restructuring Plan. Lewis was concerned that there was no independent review and he asked to make sure that the plan took the concerns of the African-American community into consideration.

The board then considered the UHS Restructuring Plan. See http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/080916s.pdf for prior board discussion about the Restructuring Plan. Board members John Dimit and Cope Cumpston stated that they could support the plan. Board member Benita Rollins-Gay said she could not support the plan because it did not include a position for a community facilitator. The board approved the plan on a 5-2 vote with Rollins-Gay and member Ruth Ann Fisher voting no.

The board then heard a presentation by Gabriel Lewis, Transportation Planner for the Regional Planning Commission. He presented the CCRPC's 2008 School Travel Plan and asked the for the Board's endorsement. The Regional Planning Commission is putting its plan together in hopes of winning grant money for school transportation initiatives. The board voted 7-0 to endorse the plan. Please contact Mr. Lewis at the Regional Planning Commission at 328-3313 for more information.

Heidi Britton, Executive Director of the School Based Health Center, gave her annual report to the Board of Education. Britton reported that in the last year there were 3,427 student visits to the Health Center, 576 more than last year. 23% of those visits were from students who had no insurance, 60% of the students were on the Illinois All Kids insurance. Britton says the Health Center has had a great working relationship with the Urbana School District. Britton invited the public to the Health Center on October 9, from 3:00 – 4:00 for a meet-and-greet. Member Benita Rollins-Gay thanked the Health Center for all its work. Mark Netter said he is so proud of this program and he commented that time will show that the work the Health Center does in keeping kids healthy will pay off in the classroom.

In the Board Report, member Cope Cumpston briefed fellow members on the recent lunch she had at Thomas Paine Elementary with member of the Urbana Education Association. Cumpston stated that some members of the UEA expressed confusion at the new PBIS and expressed the desire for a Pre-K program, more after school scholarships, and a learning resource center.

Member Brenda Carter thanked all USD teachers for using the Skyward system and said it is a "fantastic resource."

John Dimit reported that the District 116 Facilities Committee is three-quarters of the way through its building tours and should have an interim report for the Board November 4. Then board is invited to the October 23rd facilities committee meeting to give individual thoughts. Dimit also reported that the CLASS citizen's group to pass the 1% Sales Tax Referendum has kicked off its campaign.

Benita Rollins-Gay reported that Stone Creek Church is distributing coats to school children on November 8. Preston Williams reminded the public that the Urbana Rotary Wilcox Shoe Fund will also help clothe students.

In the Superintendent's Report, Public Relations Specialist Mark Schultz reminded the board that Walk to School Day is October 8 and invited school board members to attend. He also said there was a good story on the website www.usd116.org about a group of Prairie Elementary Students who went over to Bloomington, IL, to take part in a Challenger Center space mission.

The District 116 Board of Education adjourned into Executive Session at 8:52 p.m., and Netter said there would be no announcements after the meeting.

The next Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting will be October 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.