

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis  
November 4, 2008**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by board president Mark Netter. There were five present. Board members Steve Summers and Brenda Carter were absent.

The board heard one citizen statement from Tracy Parsons. Parsons spoke of the need to have a community involvement plan, especially when it comes to school restructuring or improvement plans. Board members Cope Cumpston and Benita Rollins-Gay both stated that they want to hear more of what Parsons has to say.

The board of education approved the sale of a District 116, 1995 GMC van.

William Gray and Jennifer Selby from the city of Urbana updated the school board on the Safe Routes to School program. The goal of the program is to get more students to walk or bike to school in order to improve student health and to encourage a healthier and more active life. The challenge is to improve the "walk ability" in these areas. Gray and Selby briefed the board on efforts to make walking and biking safe and appealing for students. The city received a \$25,000 grant to help in this effort. For more information about the Safe Routes to School program, please contact Gray and Selby at Urbana City Hall.

The board then heard from the School Board Facilities Committee. Co-chairs Joe Vitosky and Diane Marlin gave the board an interim report. The committee is charged to address the following topics:

- Is the District well-served by the current locations of its six K-5 elementary schools?
- What is the best plan for providing a new facility for the Early Childhood Education Program currently at Washington School?
- How should the availability of substantial private donations affect the District's capital spending priorities?

The committee has toured all facilities except Adult Education. The committee will now hear presentations about sustainability and green building practices, and it will also solicit community input during public meetings November 20 and December 4. The committee will brief the school board again in February and present the final report in April of 2009.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, briefed the school board about the District's academic progress as it relates to NCLB. Much of the information Owen presented has already been reported in the media. All District 116 schools, except Urbana Middle School, made adequate yearly progress this year. Owen told the board that he expects to create a web page by the end of the week where all NCLB, AYP, and School Report Card information will be available to the public. Member Benita Rollins-Gay told Owen that many students who may not have passed their achievement test are still achieving academically by going to college. She also encouraged the middle school to provide more one-on-one student-teacher time.

In the Superintendent's Report, Carol Baker notified the board that they will be looking at the new 403(b) plan that will be presented to the board at the next business meeting for approval. Public Relations Specialist Mark Schultz announced that the UHS production of *Pride and Prejudice* will run from November 13 – 15 at the High School. He also announced that November 15 is School Board Members Day in Illinois.

In the board report, Secretary Lori Johnson, announced that she is still trying to find a time on a Tuesday that will work for a school board retreat.

The Board of Education adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street in Urbana.