

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis  
November 18, 2008**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Business Meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. Six members were present (Benita Rollins-Gay was absent). There were no citizen statements.

The Urbana Alumni Association presented its Fall 2008 Grant awards to teachers in Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School. The following recipients are:

**Urbana Middle School**

1. Martha Rinne, UMS Library Minilab, \$3,000
2. Sandy Melvin, Autism Activity Materials, \$217.50
3. Karen Hollett, Project TEACCH Special Education, \$633.15
4. Bethany Schmitt, Broadway on Vine Musical Group Microphones, \$500
5. Barb Linder, Community Center Dell Laptop, \$882.50
6. Ellen Elrick, Program Instrument Replacement, \$1,000
7. Priscilla Kron, Multicultural Program Technology, \$1,600

**Urbana High School**

1. Matt Sly, Green Tigers Environmental Club, \$629.80
2. Junli Wei, Foreign Language Department, \$300
3. Gerasimoula Kokkosis, Biology Department Test Bank Questions, \$250
4. Steve Waller, Baseball Equipment, \$500
5. Willie Taylor, Track Equipment, \$500

The Urbana Alumni Association this fall donated a total of \$10,012.95 to teachers. In addition, the UAA is pledging \$1000 to help fund the UMS Cafetorium Stage Curtin.

The board then approved the consent agenda consisting of

- Minutes of the October 21, 2008 Business Meeting
- Minutes of the November 4, 2008 Study Session
- October Bills and Checks
- Interfund Loans
- Personnel Items
- Appointment of Busey Bank for 2009 Bank Depository
- Application for FY09 School Library Grant
- 403B Plan Resolution
- Revision of Board Policy 5.312 – Bidding Procedures (puts policy in line with new state law)

Board members then voted to accept the following gifts to District 116:

- Urbana Rotary Club donated \$2,578 to purchase adaptive chairs for students in the ASSIST classroom at Prairie Elementary School
- Exxon Mobil, Houston, donated \$500 to Urbana High School for school improvement

- Susan K. Keller, Urbana, donated \$100 to Urbana High School to purchase books for free/reduced lunch students
- Miriam Landsman, Wilmette, IL, donated a DELL Dimension 2350 computer with flat panel monitor and keyboard to the Leal Elementary School Office
- Ford Assist Program/Parkland College donated a 2003 E-250 Ford Cargo Van to Urbana High School Automotive Program valued at \$15,000

The District 116 school board then voted to renew the 2008-09 Mass Transit District contract for \$147,062, approved the asbestos abatement bid for the Iowa Street demolition project for \$12,480 (lower than expected) from DEM Services, approved the paper bid from Midland Paper for \$23,760, and approved the 2008 tax levy. If you have any questions about these bids or tax levy, please contact Carol Baker at 384-3600.

Under superintendent's report Mark Schultz announced that the Urbana Read Across America event won the national "Best Co-Sponsored Event" from the National Education Association. Schultz also announced that the Board of Education Facilities Committee will hold two public input sessions regarding the future of District 116 buildings on November 20 and December 4. See <http://www.usd116.org/news/newsfolder/fac08.html> for more information. Assistant Superintendent Don Owen (substituting for Preston Williams) announced that he will present the revised 2008 District Improvement Plan and the 2008 UHS School Improvement plan at the next board meeting. Owen also announced that the school improvement plans are also available online at <http://www.usd116.org/home/schools/improvement.html>.

The board of education then discussed the possibility of putting the 1% Sales Tax Referendum back on the ballot for the April 2009 school board and municipal elections after the measure failed by 262 votes earlier this month. Member John Dimit reported that he went to a Regional Office of Education meeting and there was a feeling among Champaign County school districts that this question should be put on the April ballot. There was a consensus among the District 116 Board of Education to vote on a resolution to put this question back on the ballot. The board hopes to take action on the issue at its December 16, 2008 meeting.

Member Dimit also noted that there will be a proposal put forward to work with an architect to remodel Cobb Auditorium at UHS. The auditorium was built in 1914 and has not received any significant remodeling, ever. Hiring a consultant to come up with a renovation plan would cost around \$30,000, which Dimit envisions would be paid through working cash bonds. He also said it is possible that any renovation project could be donor funded.

Board President Netter reported that a board retreat will take place sometime in January as members can't find a common date in December. Netter also encouraged members of the public to pick up nominating packets for school board districts three, four, and five that are up in April 2009. Netter also announced that he will not be running for school board in 2009.

The board of education adjourned at 8:32 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.