

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis December 2, 2008

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. Members John Dimit and Ruth Ann Fisher were absent. Member Fisher arrived at the meeting at 8:22 p.m., during the study topics. There were no citizen statements. Netter thanked Jason Liggett for running the TV cameras for the BOE meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Don Owen presented the District 116 School Improvement Plan on a first reading. For more information about the plan, please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/improvement/dip081126.pdf>. Owen and Urbana High School Principal Dr. Laura Taylor also presented the Urbana High School Improvement Plan on a first reading. For more information about the UHS Improvement Plan, please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/improvement/sip-uhs08.pdf>. Several board members praised the UHS School Improvement Plan. The school board will be asked to formally approve these two plans at the December 16, 2008 business meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Owen presented the 2009-10 School Calendar to the board on a first reading. The board will formally vote to approve the calendar at the December 16, 2008 business meeting. Member Cope Cumpston asked about the disparity between the U of I, Unit 4, and District 116 calendars. Owen remarked that District 116 was a few weeks ahead of Unit 4 in the calendar process. He also said that he hopes the three entities will be able to work collaboratively on future calendars. For more information about the school calendar, please contact Mr. Owen.

Director of Business and Finance, Carol Baker, then presented a proposal to install a UV system for the Competition Pool at the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center. This piece of equipment would cut down on the corrosion and chlorine smell in the pool. The estimated cost of such equipment would be between \$38,000 and \$50,000. The cost would be split between District 116 and the Urbana Park District with District 116 paying for 65% of the project. On a straw poll, the board expressed support to move ahead and request bids for this project.

President Netter then opened the public hearing for an additional five-year waiver regarding driver education fees. The driver education fee for UHS students would be \$200. This is not a fee increase, but is a request for an additional five-year waiver that allows District 116 to continue to charge the \$200 fee. Free lunch students would have the fee waived, and reduced lunch students would pay \$100. Reverend Doctor Evelyn Underwood asked for clarification of the fee structure. Netter then closed the public hearing.

Board members approved on consent agenda:

- Substitute teacher salary recommendation for 2008-09
- Approval of Driver Education Waiver
- Intergovernmental agreement between City of Urbana and District 116 "respecting joint optical fiber and installation." This would allow USD to piggyback with the city regarding internet connection to many District 116 buildings.

The school board voted 5-0 on a TORT fund reimbursement resolution. It allows the school district to issue bonds in the future to repay the TORT fund. No bond issuance is planned at this time.

Board members voted 5-0 to approve the settlement with Zurich Insurance regarding the settlement of fire damages at the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center in July 2006 for the sum of \$357,040.

The board of Education voted 5-0 to approve a structured settlement agreement of \$250,000 to a minor student.

Next, the board approved an interfund loan of \$150,000 to Urbana Adult Education. This action is because the State of Illinois is in arrears in sending state aid to Adult Education. This loan is to help Adult Education cover its December expenses. Carol Baker warned that the State of Illinois owes \$2.6 million in state funds to District 116, but it has not seen that money yet. She says if this keeps up, the district will be out of working cash in mid-March and will have to borrow to keep functioning. Superintendent Preston Williams says this is a concern because he has not heard from the State Board of Education about a timetable for the monies to be released to the school district. Baker said other school districts face the same problem.

Don Owen and Assistant Superintendent for Special Services, Susan Baker-Ory, gave a presentation to the board about Response to Intervention, or RTI. For more information about the presentation, please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/ppt081202rti.pdf>. Several board members were complimentary about the RTI program, including Benita Rollins-Gay and Mark Netter.

Jean Korder, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, briefed the School Board on Program Council activities. Please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/ppt081202.pdf> for more information.

The Board of Education adjourned at 9:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.