

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis

December 16, 2008

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. All seven members were present.

There was one public comment. Reverend Troy Burke complained to the board that it was meeting during inclement weather when there was important business on the agenda. Mr. Netter explained that if school is open the board tries to meet. Plus, Netter says the meeting is necessary because members need to authorize the payment of bills and checks.

The board opened a public hearing regarding the 2008 Tax Levy, in accordance with the "Truth in Taxation Act." There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed.

There was one communication to the board – a thank-you note from Martin Luther King Librarian Hope Morrison.

The Board of Education then approved the consent agenda 7-0 including

- Minutes from the November 4, 2008 Business Meeting
- Minutes from the December 2, 2008 Study Session
- November Bills and Checks
- Interfund Loans
- Personnel Items
- Approval of Sale of a 1995 GMC 3500 Van
- Approval of the 2009-2010 School Calendar
- UHS School Improvement Plan
- District 116 School Improvement Plan

Members voted to accept the following gifts and send thank-you notes to the following

- Kathy McCraigh, Camargo, donated three violins, bows, and cases to UHS, valued at \$1,200
- Linda Gibbens, Urbana, donated \$35 towards the purchase of fiction books about extreme sports to the UHS Library
- Clark Cunningham, Urbana, donated a 35-inch Sony TV to Prairie Elementary School, valued at \$300
- Gerald Dejong and Renee Baillargeon, Urbana, donated \$1,000 to Leal Elementary Trust Account
- Champaign County Farm Bureau, Champaign, donated \$700 to UHS to purchase instructional materials for FAA and agriculture classroom
- John Bloom, Champaign, donated five boxes of miscellaneous technology items and computer parts valued at \$1,000
- Molly Pollard, Champaign, donated a variety of photo lab equipment to UHS, valued at \$1,508

The board voted 7-0 to approve a resolution requesting the County Board put the 1% Sales Tax referendum on the April 7, 2009 ballot. After the vote, member John Dimit

asked that when the new school board is seated that it vote to re-affirm the commitment to put \$1 million of the estimated revenue to tax abatement.

Members then voted 7-0 to adopt the 2008 Tax Levy. For more information about the levy, please contact Director of Business and Finance Carol Baker at 384-3600.

Board members voted 7-0 to approve the summer 2009 elementary school improvements which will cost \$1 million. These projects will be funded through working cash bonds. Many of the improvements will be to install environmentally friendly or "green" lighting. Director of Facilities and Services, Ota Dossett, says the \$450,000 in new lighting will pay for itself through reduced utility bills in four to five years. Several elementary school libraries will also be renovated. For more information about the summer work, please contact Dossett at 384-3600.

On a 7-0 vote, the board also voted to approve over \$328,000 in Life Safety work in the summer of 2009.

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education also voted 7-0 to agree to two settlements for two different minor students for \$250,000 each.

Under the superintendent's report, Mark Schultz invited the public to the UHS/UMS Winter Concert being held December 17, 2008, at Oscar Adams Gym at 7:00 p.m. Schultz also alerted the public to a phone scam perpetrated by someone claiming to raise money for UHS. District 116 is not telemarketing and does not endorse any telemarketing on behalf of the district. Schultz also saluted the snow-removal crews who have been working hard to keep schools open.

Under board reports Brenda Carter said she was impressed with the UHS choir and he reported that the Wiley librarian is excited about the computer labs set up and is excited about the pending renovations. Benita Rollins-Gay said she was impressed with the hard work done by the UMS Restructuring Committee. Superintendent Williams gave kudos to Dr. Laura Taylor and the UHS staff for the support class for freshmen and sophomores. Williams said he has spoken to several underclassmen and they like the extra academic help.

The board of education adjourned at 8:12 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 North Race Street, Urbana.