

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis January 20, 2009

For more information about Board of Education Meetings, please see <http://www.usd116.org/home/board/schoolboardminutes0809-2.html>.

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. At the roll call members Cope Cumpston, Steve Summers, John Dimit, and Brenda Carter were absent. Due to the lack of a quorum the board could not take any business action. The board proceeded with the UMS restructuring report while waiting for board members to arrive. Member Carter arrived at 7:48 p.m., thus achieving a quorum. Member Summers arrived at 7:55 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, presented on first reading the Urbana Middle School Restructuring Plan. This plan is required under federal No Child Left Behind mandates. Please see <http://www.usd116.org/home/schools/improvement.html> for more information about the UMS restructuring plan. Owen complimented and thanked the restructuring committee for putting in thousands of hours this fall and winter to complete this plan. Benita Rollins-Gay and Mark Netter also thanked the committee for its work. Superintendent Dr. Preston Williams said that District 116 takes this restructuring plan very seriously and he also commented that great things can happen once this plan goes into effect. The school board will formally vote to adopt the UMS Restructuring Plan at its February 3, 2009 meeting.

The board approved the consent agenda that included:

- Minutes from the December 16, 2008 business meeting
- Minutes from the January 6, 2009 study session
- December Bills/Checks
- Personnel Items
- Approval of Sales of Surplus Vehicle

The board voted to accept the following gifts:

- Starr Dalton of American Legion Post 71 donated a variety of mittens and gloves to be used in the elementary buildings
- Unitarian Universalist Church, Urbana, donated mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to be dispersed to school buildings
- Richard Martin, Quincy, donated a 2000 Chevy S-10 truck to the UHS Agricultural Program, valued at \$2,000.
- Kristy Herman, Infant-Parent Institute, Champaign, donated twenty reams of colored paper and two paper shelves to Prairie Elementary School, valued at \$220
- Pat Mills, Fayetteville, Arkansas, donated Title I classroom sets of Barnes and Noble biographies (Colin Powell, Bill Clinton, and Abraham Lincoln) valued at \$105
- Clarence Groce, Huntsville, Alabama, (parent of UHS student) donated \$500 to the UHS general education fund, sponsored by his employer, BP Fabric of America

- Al Valocchi, Urbana donated a clarinet (Buffett 770795) to the UMS Evelyn Burnett Underwood Music Scholarship Program, valued at \$700
- James and Darlene Kloeppe, Urbana, donated \$2,000 to the Evelyn Burnett Underwood Music Scholarship Program to provide private lessons for students
- Timothy Stelzer and Rebecca Mead, Urbana, donated \$400 to Leal Elementary School (Bridget Maloney's 2nd Grade Classroom) to purchase an incubator
- Rick and Carrie Kubetz, Urbana, donated a complete set of darkroom equipment and also a set of *Time Life Photography* books valued at \$300
- Darrel Foste, PACA, donated nylon play structures to be used at Washington Early Childhood School or any elementary building

Board member unanimously approved a working cash bond resolution. Director of Business and Finance Carol Baker says the district received authorization from the board to sell up to \$3 million back in January 2007, but only issued \$2 million at that time. This is the final \$1 million remaining under that authorization. These monies will be used for facility and infrastructure improvements. This will NOT change bond and interest levy of 63-cents. If you have any questions about this, please contact Baker at Central Office.

Board members decided to keep current closed session minutes confidential at this time as there are still several outstanding issues that have yet to be resolved. The board voted unanimously to keep the meeting minutes closed.

Under Superintendent's Report, Baker briefed the board that with the new presidential administration in Washington, there might be a chance to receive federal funds for facility and infrastructure improvements and she recommends that the district get applications ready to request these funds. The board directed Baker to proceed.

Under board report, Brenda Carter stated that she was very encouraged to see so many National Board Certified Teachers achieve this status this year.

The board of education adjourned at 8:21 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at 205 North Race Street, Urbana.