

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis

February 17, 2009

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

During the public comment section, the Rev. Troy Burks complimented Urbana High School for being chosen to present its school improvement plan to the State Board of Education. For more information about that presentation, please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/pressreleases08/pr090211uhsresent.pdf>. Burks praised all who were involved in the improvement plan and said he was “enthused and elated” to see that UHS was asked to share the secrets of their success.

The board commended Prairie teacher Tanya Coleman for receiving a grant from Target Field Trips for the amount of \$800.

Board members then received an interim report from the Urbana School District Facilities Committee. For the complete report please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/090217interimreport.pdf>. Members Cope Cumpston, John Dimit, Benita Rollins-Gay, and Superintendent Dr. Preston Williams all complimented the Facilities Committee for its hard work.

The consent agenda was then approved on a 7-0 vote. The consent agenda included:

- Minutes of the January 20 and February 3 meetings
- February Bills/Checks
- Various Personnel Items
- Dismissal of Employee subject to Loudermill hearing in previous executive session

Several groups and individuals have presented gifts or donations to District 116. The board voted 7-0 to accept the gifts and instruct staff to send thank-you notes. The gifts are:

- The Score Club donated \$105 to the Leal Library to purchase five *Meet the New Student* books in memory of Connie Solberg
- Horizon Hobby, Chris Hannauer, Champaign, donated a variety of technology pieces to various district buildings. The value of the donation was \$200
- Heath Grote, Champaign, donated two Pentium 4 computers to be used wherever needed in the district, valued at \$200
- Karen Tucker, Savoy, donated a book binder, valued at \$400, to Yankee Ridge Elementary
- Meijer Grocery Store, Tony Howard – General Manager, Urbana, donated \$200 in gift cards to be used to buy supplies for the EBD Thanksgiving Meal project.
- Patterson Office Supplies, Champaign, donated a variety of paper, envelopes, pencils, and erasers to Yankee Ridge Elementary. These items will be used for various incentives for students. The donation is valued at \$1,235.54

Board President Netter announced that there will be an executive session Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's contract.

Under the Superintendent's report, Carol Baker, Director of Business and Finance, noted that tax caps will significantly impact District 116 next fiscal year. Property tax revenues can only increase by 5% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is less. The 2008 CPI just recently released is .1%, the lowest since tax caps began. The District expects to receive \$1 million less from the 2009 tax levy. District 116 has lost over \$10 million in revenue since the tax caps inception.

Mark Schultz, Public Relations Specialist, briefed the board on a few items. Schultz announced that the second annual African American Cultural Festival will be February 26, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the UHS Commons. Schultz also invited the board to come to UHS on Wednesday when Worden Martin and Parkland College will donate a car to the UHS Automotive Program. Schultz also remarked that UHS was invited to present its improvement plan to the State Board of Education.

Dr. Williams also announced that District 116 has submitted a list of projects that could be included in the newly enacted stimulus bill that President Obama has signed into law. Board member Dimit added that 12 of 14 school districts in Champaign County submitted a total of \$50 million in facilities projects – most of them green projects.

Under board report, Dimit reported that a consultant team is working on a possible renovation of Cobb Auditorium (see Facilities Committee Report) and will present initial ideas in one month. Netter announced that the citizen campaign committee for the 1% Sales Tax referendum will meet Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., at Lincoln Square Mall.

Board Secretary Lori Johnson reminded the public that the Urbana Alumni Association 12th Annual Cash Bash will be this Saturday, February 21, at the Laborer's Hall. For more information, please see <http://www.usd116.org/news/newsfolder/cashbash09.html>.

The Board of Education adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be March 3, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.