

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis

March 3, 2009

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. There were five in attendance. Members John Dimit and Brenda Carter were absent. There were no citizen statements.

The C-U Safe Routes to School Project gave a briefing about the group's activities to promote walking and biking to school. Please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/CUSRTSreport090303.pdf> the Safe Routes to School report to the board. Also, please see <http://www.ccrpc.org/planning/transportation/cusrtsreport/cusrtsreport.php> to study the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission survey report about safe walking and biking to school.

The board voted 5-0 to allow the District to make an emergency purchase of two water heaters using Life Safety Funds. The water heaters will replace the ones currently at Wiley Elementary and Thomas Paine Elementary. Both water heaters are of 1960s vintage. Previously the hot water heater at Yankee Ridge had to be replaced. It will cost \$13,200 each to replace the hot water heaters at Wiley and Thomas Paine. Director of Facilities Services Ota Dossett says that these heaters are energy-efficient and will pay for themselves in saved-energy costs in two years.

Director of Business and Finance, Carol Baker, told the board that she would like to research new business software for the school district. Baker says the current software works well, but it is maintained by one person who is approaching retirement age. Baker says she wants to research using new business software now, so the district is not caught flat-footed and so that the District can make a good decision. The board gave its blessing for Baker to start searching.

Netter announced that there will be an executive session on March 4, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in order to evaluate the Superintendent's Contract and a suspension/expulsion hearing March 5, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

Under Superintendent's report, Don Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, announced that the Illinois State Board of Education has accepted the Urbana Middle School Restructuring Plan. Please see the report at <http://www.usd116.org/files/improvement/umsrestruct090226.pdf>. Owen also announced that five District 116 Elementary Schools received special recognition from the State Board of Education. Please see <http://www.usd116.org/news/newsfolder/isbeaward.html> for more information.

Carol Baker reported that the district is preparing the new Food Service bid. Baker noted that District 116 serves over 500,000 meals each year. For more information about the Food Service bid, please contact Baker.

Superintendent Dr. Preston L. Williams, Jr., noted that ISAT testing is going on all this week.

Public Relations Specialist Mark Schultz noted that the *Urbana School District Monthly*, the District's online newsletter has been published. Please read the newsletter at <http://www.usd116.org/enews/0903pages/0903index.html>.

In the Board Report, Mark Netter passed along the thanks of member Brenda Carter for being sent to the Illinois Association of School Boards meeting in Rantoul.

The Board of Education adjourned at 8:44 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District 116 Board of Education Meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.