

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis**  
**April 21, 2009**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m., by Board President Mark Netter. There were six in attendance (member Steve Summers arrive at 7:45 p.m.).

Don Owen presented the board of education with the school-wide Title I plans. District 116 has briefed the board many times about the Title I plans; however the school board never formally voted to adopt the plans. The Illinois State Board of Education requires school board approval (this is a new rule) so the school district wants to make sure it is in compliance. The school board will vote to formally adopt the Title I plans at its May 5, 2009, meeting. For more information about the Title I plans, please contact Mr. Owen, or Director of Title I, Jennifer Frerichs, at 384-3600. You can also view the Title I plans online at <http://www.usd116.org/files/improvement/dist-title1.pdf>.

The board of education voted unanimously to adopt the consent agenda, including:

- Minutes of the March 17, and April 7, 2009, meetings
- March Bills and Checks
- Interfund Loans
- Appointment of Michael Cain as school treasurer (\$5,000 salary)
- Appoint BKD, LLP as District 116 auditors
- Approval of sale of surplus vehicle
- Renew membership in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA)
- Approve Electric Supply Contract with MidAmerican Energy Company. Energy costs are locked in saving the District \$160,000 per year
- Life Safety Work Bid Approval for 2009-10 (\$92,800)
- Board-funded building improvements
- District wide cleaning contract renewal with Environmental Services Solutions (ESS)

Board members then voted to accept the following gifts:

- Terry and Cindy Bell, Wilma Reiners, Ron and Wanda Baird, Nadine Baird, Connie Minnes, Jeremy Darnell, Dionne Webster, Terry Morgan, Patrick Russell, Donna Oaks-Novak, Kathy Barton, Martha Rinne, and Greg Stock made a donation to Urbana Middle School in memory of Elmo Black, father of UMS Principal Nancy Clinton
- Mike Martin, Rantoul, donated shop supplies, classroom materials, and travel expenses for FFA students at Urbana High School. This donation was valued at \$6,801

The school board voted in favor of canvassing the election and proclaiming the results.

Board Secretary Ruth Ann Fisher announced that she, Elaine Gehrmann, and Peggy Patton as the winners of a four-year term to the District #116 Board of Education. The school board approved a resolution declaring Fisher, Patton, and Gehrmann elected to the board of education. Patton, Gehrmann, and Fisher were then sworn in as members of the school board.



*Photo: (L to R) Peggy Patton, Elaine Gehrman, and Ruth Ann Fisher are sworn in as members of the Urbana School District Board of Education.*

Current board members then saluted retiring board members Mark Netter and Cope Cumpston. Netter and Cumpston also made final remarks.

The Board of Education adjourned Sine Die. The new board of education then immediately reconvened and organized. Member Summers chaired the organizational meeting. Members approved a resolution 7-0 to establish a one-year term for the new Board of Education Officers. John Dimit was nominated for Board President, Benita Rollins-Gay for Vice-President, Ruth Ann Fisher for Secretary, and Brenda Carter for Secretary Pro Tem. There were no competing nominations. The board voted unanimously to approve the slate of officers. New Board President John Dimit then took the chair.

Dimit told the board that it will face many challenges in the coming two years. He says the board will have to set priorities regarding facility construction. He also commented that the board will face a very hard budget situation in the coming two years because tax caps are limiting spending increases to only .1%. According to Dimit, the board will also have to consider redistricting the elementary school boundaries and consider equity and technology issues.

Member Brenda Carter invited board members to the May 6 roundtable conference at the Urbana Student Health Center.

Superintendent Dr. Preston L., Williams Jr., reminded the public about the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation Luncheon on April 24, 2009 (<http://www.usd116.org/news/newsfolder/090424lunch.html>). Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Gayle Jeffries, announced that tomorrow (April 22) was Secretaries' Day and each administrative assistant will be receiving a token of appreciation from District 116. Mark Schultz announced that the UHS production *Curtains* will open April 30, at UHS.

The board of education adjourned at 8:18 p.m. Each board of education meeting is taped and broadcast on UPTV (channel 6 in the Champaign-Urbana area). For a broadcast schedule please see <http://www.ci.urbana.il.us/>.

The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be May 5, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.