

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis**  
**May 5, 2009**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Board President John Dimit. There were six members in attendance (Steve Summers was absent and Brenda Carter arrived at 7:33 p.m., just after roll call).

There were no citizen statements.

Patricia Dessen of the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation (CUSF) presented three Master Grant awards to District 116 teachers. The recipients are:

- Mark Foley, UHS, won \$3,761 for the project *Integrating Graphic Novels into the New American Studies Curriculum*
- Hope Morrison, King Elementary, won \$944 for the project *Unleashing the Power: Using a SMART Document Camera for K-5 Literacy Instruction*.
- Bridget Maloney, Leal Elementary, won a \$700 grant for the project *Fitness: Free for All*

For more information about the CUSF and the grant process, please see [www.CUSchoolsFoundation.org](http://www.CUSchoolsFoundation.org).

Debra Newell, District 116 Library Coordinator, presented the annual school district library status report to the Board of Education. The board accepted the report with no comment. Read the library status report here (<http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/library090505.pdf>).

The board reviewed on first reading the Board of Education policy on *Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*. Superintendent, Dr. Preston L. Williams, Jr., informed the board that the school district is “already utilizing all the interventions” spelled out in the bullying policy. He commented that the State Board of Education requires that a policy on bullying be a separate document, independent from any other discipline policies. For more information about school board policies, please see <http://www.usd116.org/home/board/bpch6tc.html>.

Jennifer Frerichs, District 116 Title I Coordinator, presented an overview about the District-wide Title I services. Member Benita Rollins-Gay asked if there is a way to follow elementary student progress into the secondary level especially when it comes to math scores. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, told the board that the district is working on a way to track students.

The Board of Education then approved the following consent agenda:

- Various Personnel Items
- Title I School Improvement Plans <http://www.usd116.org/home/schools/improvement.html>
- Approving Board Policy 6.226 regarding bullying

Board members then voted 6-0 on a resolution regarding the 1% Sales Tax for Facilities. The resolution commits the district to using one-third of the revenue (\$1 million) to abate property taxes. This resolution will be forwarded to the Champaign County Board who will have to vote on implementing the Sales Tax.

The board then voted 6-0 to approve the modified Working Cash Bond Fund Projects list. The bids have come in under the \$1 million budget, so the district is going to fund more facility projects. The highlight of the modified project list is to install motion sensors that can turn on and shut off lights depending on whether or not people are in the room. It will cost the school district \$26,000 to install the motion

sensor lights. The lights will save the district \$34,000 in energy costs in a year. Director of Facilities Services, Ota Dossett, says the new lights will pay for themselves in nine months.

Mark Schultz briefed the school board on recent developments, including the UHS musical *Curtains*, which will play May 8 and 9, UHS students competing in the state journalism championships, and UHS students competing in the state math championships. For more information about these events, please see the news section on the District 116 website <http://www.usd116.org/news/>. Schultz also announced that U of I student and America Reads/America Counts tutor Moheet Merchant won the U of I's "Tutor of the Year." Merchant works at Urbana Adult Education. And, Schultz informed the Board of Education that the UHS group *Vocal Chords Required*, recently recorded an album (<http://www.usd116.org/files/pressreleases08/pr090504vocalchords.pdf>).

President Dimit announced that the District 116 Facilities Committee will finalize its report on May 7, and will present that report to the Board of Education on May 19. Dimit also reported that the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation has re-organized its board structure.

The board of education adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.