

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis
June 16, 2009

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:29 p.m., by Board President John Dimit. All were in attendance.

During citizen statements, Carletta Donaldson complimented the board members for a great school year. She also suggested that the board modify public comment rules to allow members of the public to speak during discussion of an agenda item. Pam Shallenberger, President of Urbana Education Association, spoke to the board calling for action to replace Washington Early Childhood School as the building continues to deteriorate.

The board commended the following staff who received SPLASH Grants from Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation (CUSF):

- Christina Mitchaner – Leal
- Diane Goodwine – Leal
- Linda Zimmerman – Leal
- Katheryn Plotner – Leal
- Kerrie Huizinga – Leal
- Yvonne Vitosky – Leal
- April Hixson – Thomas Paine
- Melissa Reder – Thomas Paine
- Junli Wei – UHS
- Melinda Lundberg – Yankee Ridge

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, presented the board with an update from the District 116 Monitoring Team. Read the update here <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/090616monitor.pdf>

Janice Mitchell, Parent Liaison, and Lucia Maldonado, Latino Parent Liaison, presented the board with an update on their positions. Member Benita Rollins-Gay complimented the two for their efforts. Member Elaine Gehrman asked Mitchell if she has enough time and resources to work with parent involvement and Mitchell said yes. Member Brenda Carter wanted to make sure that all summer volunteers are being screened. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Gayle Jeffries, reported that all summer volunteers are subject to finger-printing and background checks. Read more information from Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Maldonado here <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/090616parent.pdf>.

The Board of Education then had extensive discussion about the recent Facilities Committee Report. Member Carter expressed the strong desire to have something happen “now” and have a new Early Childhood School building. Member Steve Summers also supported the opinion for a new Early Childhood School, but he also said the district needs to be responsible in spending funds. Member Gehrman stated that she wanted to get more demographic data. President Dimit stated that the district needs to have a strategy mapped out and ready to implement this fall.

The Board of Education approved 7-0 the following items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the May 19, and June 2, 2009 meetings
- May Bills/Checks

- Interfund Loans
- Personnel Items
- June and July Bills for Payment
- Prevailing Wage Resolution
- Approval of Revised Extra-Curricular Code
(<http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/090602conduct.pdf>)
- Termination of the Excessive Excused Absence District Policy for UHS
(<http://www.usd116.org/home/board/bp6130.html>)
- Approval of the Revised Internet Acceptable Use and Employee Technology Use Agreement
(<http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/090602aup.pdf>)
- Approval of Workload Plan for Special Education Teachers
(<http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/090602workload.pdf>)
- The 2009-10 Title I Elementary Improvement Plans
(<http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/090602title1.pdf>)
- Renewal of the School District Property, Liability, and Workers Comp Excess Insurance Rates
- Resolution Declaring Intent to Retain Interest Earning as Interest and Not to Accumulate as Principal
- Pre-School Head Start Program Collaborative Services Agreement with Early Childhood School

The Board of Education then voted to accept the following gifts:

- Thomas and Teresa Kinsel, Urbana, donated a 32-inch Mitsubishi Color TV to the UHS Library. The donation was valued at \$600.
- Albert Newew, Germany, donated \$250 to UHS to use in education support
- Carl and Elsa Gunter, Urbana, donated \$250 to Leal Elementary School. This donation was put in the Leal Office Trust Account. The Gunters also donated \$150 to UMS for Educational Support.
- Champaign-Urbana Elks, Arlen Francis Klein Trust, donated various adaptive equipment for the ASSIST Program at Prairie Elementary School, valued at \$2,355.
- New Free Will Baptist Church, Champaign, donated \$200 to the Evelyn Burnett Underwood Instrumental Music Assistance program at UMS.

Members voted 7-0 to approve a total of \$46,000 in life safety funds for Washington Early Childhood.

The board voted 7-0 to direct District 116 staff to send out Requests for Proposal (RFP's) for the following services: architectural, demographer, and utility performance contracting. The board also approved a resolution for the school district to develop a strategic plan – the first in over 20 years.

District 116 presented a tentative budget to the school board which was approved 7-0. There will be a public hearing on the budget on September 1, 2009 and the board will vote to approve a final budget for 2009-10 on September 15, 2009. Director of Business and Finance, Carol Baker says that this tentative budget is hanging in the balance because the state has not finalized its own budget, thus state aid is unknown at this time. Read the tentative budget summary here
<http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0809/090616tenbud.pdf>

The board also voted 7-0 to adopt the tentative budget for Adult Education.

The Champaign – Urbana Schools Foundation requested that the school district contribute \$15,000 in funding for the next three years. The school board voted 7-0 to approve that request.

The board held a short debate on the dates for next year's meetings, along with start times. The board will continue to meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. The board of education will take a hiatus from meetings and resume the above schedule on August 18.

The Board of Education adjourned at 10:24 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, August 18, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race, Urbana.