



URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT #116

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

STUDY SESSION

JEAN F. BURKHOLDER

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER

205 North Race St. Urbana, IL 61801

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

7:30 p.m.

www.usd116.org

Our mission is the Urbana School District #116, through the active engagement of the community, is to provide a quality education by vigorously fostering high expectations for individual growth within a nurturing and just environment, enabling each student to become a self-sufficient, productive, caring, and responsible member of a changing world society.

Mr. John H. Dimit, President
Ms. Benita Rollins-Gay, Vice-President
Ms. Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary
Ms. Brenda Carter, Member
Ms. Elaine Gehrmann, Member
Ms. Peggy Patten, Member
Mr. Steve Summers, Member
Dr. Preston L. Williams, Jr., Superintendent
Ms. Lori Johnson, Board Secretary

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Rollins-Gay called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: John Dimit, President (7:40 p.m.)
Benita Rollins-Gay, Vice-President
Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary
Elaine Gehrmann, Board Member (7:40 p.m.)
Peggy Patten, Board Member
Steve Summers, Board Member

Also Present: Preston L. Williams, Jr., Superintendent
Donald Owen, Asst. Supt. of Curriculum and Instruction
Gayle Jeffries, Asst. Supt of Human Resources
Carol Baker, Director of Business and Finance
Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities and Grounds

Absent: Brenda Carter, Board Member
Susan Baker-Ory, Asst. Supt. of Special Services

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AGENDA

4.0 CITIZENS STATEMENTS

Mark Palmer, Champaign, spoke to the board, thanking them for supporting the Mentoring Scholarship Foundation.

*President Dimit and Member Gerhmann arrived.

5.0 CALL FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING/SESSION (After current meeting)

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-President Rollins-Gay moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Secretary Fisher. Motion passed.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS

7.01 First Reading UMS School Improvement Plan

The Board of Education will receive the Urbana Middle School Improvement Plan as a first reading. Approval of the plan will be requested during the October 20, 2009 business meeting.

8.0 PUBLIC HEARING

9.0 ACTION ITEMS (individual)

9.01 Personnel Item(s)

Approval of various personnel item(s) were requested.

Secretary Fisher moved to approve item #9.01, seconded by Vice-President Rollins-Gay. On a roll call vote, all member present voted "aye."
Absent: B.Carter

9.02 Dismissal of Employee

Board approval was requested to dismiss an employee within the 90-day probation period.

*Member Summers moved to dismiss probationary employee Barbara Reasor effective October 6, 2009, seconded by Vice-President Rollins-Gay. On a roll call vote, all members present voted "aye."
Absent: B. Carter*

10.0 STUDY TOPICS

10.01 2009 Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) Report

Donald Owen, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction gave an overview of building and district AYP results from the state tests that were taken by students in grades 3-8 and 11 in March and April of 2009.

Board President, John Dimit, remarked that Illinois has tough learning standards as opposed to other states that water the standards down. He also said that the district has made progress. Member Benita Rollins-Gay complimented the numbers, especially the UHS numbers saying the high school is “doing something right.”

10.02 Urbana Middle School 2009 School Improvement Plan

Nancy Clinton, UMS Principal, reviewed the UMS School Improvement Plan with the Board of Education.

Ms. Clinton thanked UMS Librarian, Martha Rinne, for writing the plan. Ms. Clinton told the board that the school had made “very good progress” and she was “confident” that the improvement would increase.

10.03 Urbana High School 2009 Update on School Improvement Initiatives

Laura Taylor, UHS Principal, discussed the 2009 updated school improvement initiatives with the Board of Education.

10.04 School Messenger/Skylert Automated Messaging System

Donald Owen, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, will discuss how the district is on the verge of implementing a new automated messaging system that will not only provide absence notification, but also can be used as an emergency and non-emergency parent notification system.

The system will feature more phone lines to provide more timely communication with parents. The system will be used for daily attendance reports, emergency announcements, and school announcements. The system will roll out mid-month. A news release accompanying the roll out will also be sent to the media.

11.0 CALL FOR FUTURE SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

12.0 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mark Schultz, Public Relations Specialist, told the board that the District and the Champaign Urbana Public Health District are partnering to bring the H1N1 vaccine to schools. There will be school based vaccine clinics. The CUPHD expects to have the vaccine later this month and will then set up the clinics. Parents will have to sign a waiver in order for their child to receive the injection. This is a totally VOLUNTARY vaccine. He also announced that the District is now on Twitter. You can access District 116 “tweets” at www.twitter.com, and search for “Urbana116.” Superintendent, Dr. Preston L., Williams, Jr., asked board members to volunteer to be part of the architectural committee that will look over the RPF’s to the district. President Dimit and Member Patten volunteered.

13.0 BOARD'S REPORT

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-President Rollins-Gay. Motion passed.

President Dimit declared the meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

President

Secretary