

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis
October 6, 2009

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:33. John Dimit and Elaine Gehrman arrived at 7:37 after attending another school related function. Member Brenda Carter was absent.

During citizen statements, Mark Palmer spoke to the board, thanking them for supporting the Mentoring Scholarship Foundation.

The board heard the first reading of the Urbana Middle School Improvement Plan. The board will vote on the plan at its October 20 meeting.

Members then voted to approve various personnel items, and voted to dismiss an employee within the 90-day probation period.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, presented the Board of Education with the 2009 Adequate Yearly Progress report, according to the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Please see <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0910/091006ayp.pdf>. 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."

Urbana Middle School Principal, Nancy Clinton, presented the board with the UMS School Improvement plan. Read the plan at <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0910/091006umssip.pdf>. Clinton thanked UMS Librarian, Martha Rinne, for writing the plan. Clinton told the board that the school had made "very good progress" and she was "confident" that the improvement would increase.

Dr. Laura Taylor, Principal at Urbana High School, updated the board about the high school's School Improvement Plan. See <http://www.usd116.org/files/boardmin0910/091006sip.pdf>.

Don Owen briefed the Board of Education about the Skylert Automated Messaging System and how the District is on the verge of implementing a new automated messaging 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. Contact Owen if you have any questions. The system will roll out mid-month. A news release accompanying the roll-out will also be sent to the media.

Under the 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. Schultz 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 (<http://www.usd116.org/news/newsfolder/rfparch09.html>).

The board of education adjourned at 9:37 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting will be October 20, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 North Race Street, Urbana.