

**Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis**  
**November 17, 2009**

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Board President John Dimit. Members Brenda Carter and Benita Rollins-Gay arrived at 7:35 p.m. All seven members were present. There were no citizen statements.

Mr. Dimit read several names of middle school and high school students who won honors at the [District 13 Band competition](#).

Tina Gunsalus of the Urbana Alumni Association announced the winners of the [fall 2009 grants](#). For more information about the UAA, please see <http://www.usd116.org/home/uaa.html>.

Dr. Howard Feddema of Cambridge Strategic Services gave a presentation to the Board of Education about what strategic planning can do for the school district. President Dimit noted that it has been 22 years since District 116 has had a strategic plan. If you have any questions about District 116 developing a strategic plan, please contact Superintendent, Dr. Preston L., Williams, Jr., at 384-3600.

The Board then voted 7-0 to approve the consent agenda including:

- October 20 and November 3, 2009 meeting minutes
- October Bills/Checks
- Interfund Loans
- Personnel Items
- Appoint Busey Bank for 2010 Bank Depository
- Purchase 114 W. Iowa property for \$120,000
- Application for FY10 School Library Grant

Gayle Jeffries, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, noted that UMS Principal, Nancy Clinton, is retiring after 37 years in education. See <http://www.usd116.org/news/newsfolder/clinton.html> for more information.

Board members voted all in favor of accepting the following gifts:

- David Gordon, Urbana, donated \$100 and Dr. Carol Binnington, Urbana, donated \$50 to help buy bus tokens for Urbana Adult Education students
- Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club donated \$2,000 to Urbana Middle School to be used by the Character Education/Student of the Month programs
- John Cheeseman, Urbana, donated a NEO by Alphasmart, to Leal Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade classrooms, valued at \$219

The board voted 7-0 to renew the [Mass Transit District contract for 2009-10](#).

The board voted 7-0 to approve the [preliminary 2009 Tax Levy](#). The board will advertise and hold a hearing on the matter and formally vote on the levy at the December business meeting.

Under Superintendent's report, Mark Schultz, Public Relations Specialist, gave information about Leal Elementary School participating in the Space Shuttle project (<http://www.usd116.org/files/pressreleases0910/pr091117shuttle.pdf>). Schultz also reminded the public of the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Dinner served by the UHS Student Senate

(<http://www.usd116.org/files/pressreleases0910/pr091117thanksgiving.pdf>). Dr. Williams informed the board that he and several District 116 Administrators will be attending the National Alliance of Black School Educators conference in Indianapolis this week. Dr. Williams also said that District 116 conducted interviews with four architects regarding renovations at Martin Luther King Elementary School, and more information will be forthcoming.

President Dimit informed the board that they must be ready to move rapidly to prepare the District for a new Early Childhood School. Dimit also informed the board that a community group centered about football and soccer interests will prepare a proposal for the school district to improve the southwest athletic fields on the secondary school campus. The board will see a presentation by the group in 2010.

Member Elaine Gehrmann reported that she attended the "IParents – Pathways to Success" program from the U of I (<http://ed.uiuc.edu/anc/detail/all/147888/>). The program is designed to prepare middle and high school parents for helping their children prepare for college and/or careers.

The board of Education adjourned at 9:29 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting will be December 1, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street.