

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis

December 1, 2009

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Study Session was called to order at 7:33 p.m., by Board President John Dimit. All members were in attendance.

Mark Netter, former board member, spoke to the board and encouraged them to support hiring the Community Engagement Facilitator.

Superintendent, Dr. Preston L., Williams, Jr., presented the board with a first reading of the revised Board of Education Policy Manual. This revised policy brings all Board of Education practices into compliance with the Illinois State School Code. Dr. Williams encouraged all board members to study this document and bring any questions to him. The board agreed to go through this policy as study topics for several meetings before taking a final vote to adopt the new policy. The board agreed to try to have all their questions answered by Dr. Williams outside the regularly scheduled meetings.

The board voted 7-0 to approve various personnel items, including the retirement in December of Robert Smith at Prairie Elementary after a 37-year teaching career.

Members then voted 7-0 to move forward and hire Cambridge Strategic Services to facilitate the Strategic Planning process. This will cost the School District \$38,000, plus other costs. The board hopes the process will be completed about a year from now.

On the facilities front, the board voted 7-0 to approve negotiating with IGW Architecture for the addition to King Elementary School. The School Board will also work with IGW on other facilities matters.

School Board members voted 7-0 to approve a resolution to issue Working Cash Bonds. There will be a public hearing on the matter at the December 15 school board meeting. The board also voted to approve a reimbursement resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from the proceeds of an obligation to be issued by District 116. If you have any questions about the working cash bonds issue, please contact Carol Baker, Director of Business and Finance, at 384-3600.

Under study topics, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Don Owen, helped the School Board review the [Community Engagement Facilitator](#) position. Owen also presented a [history of the process](#). There followed extensive discussion about the position, with a consensus building that the School Board didn't want to have a position that works at "cross purposes" with the strategic planning consultants. The board directed District 116 administration to modify the Community Engagement Facilitator position that directly supports the strategic planning process and bring it back to the board for approval.

In the board reports, members Benita Rollins-Gay and Peggy Patten reported to the board about their trip to the Illinois Association of School Boards meetings in Chicago.

The Board of Education adjourned at 9:33 p.m. The next meeting of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 North Race Street, Urbana.

