

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Meeting Synopsis

February 23, 2010

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Special Meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m., by Board President John Dimit. All seven members were in attendance. Dimit announced that the purpose of the meeting was to listen to public input regarding the budget reductions for Fiscal Year 2011. Dimit also announced that the board would not discuss budget reductions at this meeting, but only listen to the public.

Director of Business and Finance, Carol Baker, gave the public a [presentation regarding the proposed budget cuts](#). Superintendent Dr. Preston L. Williams, Jr., commented that the district is dealing with a "great deal of non-information at the state level." Williams also warned that there will have to be budget cuts in the next few years saying, "We will continue to have issues like we are facing now." Williams says the cuts are necessary because of the problems and indecision with the state government. He noted that the state "has proven (it has) not been upfront and honest." Williams adds that the district "deficits are without any raises, period." He also notes, "There is not one program or individual hired that we thought we didn't need."

The board heard from 33 public speakers about the District 116 budget cuts. The people spoke about the need to keep the Latino Parent Liaison and the Parent and Community Outreach Coordinator positions. There were also speakers who wished to make comments about keeping the Minority Enrichment Program, the Mentoring Program, Washington Early Childhood, dance and drama, and school nurses. A few also spoke to the board saying that they were concerned about the transparency of the budget cutting process.

President Dimit commented that the budget cuts will be messy and unpleasant. He noted that "we wouldn't be here if Springfield was doing its job." Member Peggy Patten noted that "there is no right decision" regarding budget cuts and she encouraged the public to [contact their state representatives and senators](#).

The Board of Education adjourned at 7:38 p.m. The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will meet in special session on Saturday, February 27, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., to begin the budget reduction process.