

Urbana School District #116 Board of Education Synopsis

March 16, 2010

The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Board President John Dimit. All members were in attendance.

The board heard six citizen statements – three from students calling for the board to not cut teachers at UHS, a message from Leif Hall calling on the board to not eliminate the High School Band Director Position, and from Pam Shallenberger of UEA, encouraging the public to call on lawmakers to engage in school finance reform.

After public comments, Board President John Dimit stated that the board already approved the [budget cuts](#) on March 14, and tonight's meeting was to formally adopt the Reduction in Force (RIF) notices. Dimit echoed Shallenberger's comments saying that the board is "forced to make decisions that are not of our making." Member Peggy Patten thanked all speakers for their comments and remarked that there is "not a single cut that we don't deeply regret."

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

- March Bills and Checks
- Interfund Loans
- Personnel Items
- UHS Summer School Schedule (June 16 – July 7, 2010)

The School Board then voted to approve RIF notices for 139 District #116 Non-Certified Staff, Certified Staff, and Adult Education Certified and Non-Certified Staff. If you have any questions about the RIF notices, please contact Gayle Jeffries, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, at 384-3600.

Board members voted to approve the Energy Services Audit Agreement. During the discussion about the audit agreement, Ota Dossett, Director of Facilities Services, noted that **by state law**, the District must heat schools to 72-degrees in the winter. President Dimit expressed amazement and exasperation that state law is forcing the school district to use so much energy.

Mr. Dossett then presented to the board a [Life Safety Amendment](#) for \$47,000 to replace damaged water lines at Wiley Elementary School. The board voted 7-0 to approve the amendment.

Under the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Preston L., Williams, Jr., updated the board of education on five Freedom of Information Requests to District 116. Dr. Williams then comments and commended the school board, administrators, staff, and students for their hard work, time commitments, and professionalism during this budget cutting process. Dr. Williams noted that "this district will come through" and "it hurts when we have to cut anyone."

Under board report, Member Elaine Gehrmann commented that at some point that she wants to hear more about staff furloughs as a part of budget cutting, and she also wants to discuss property ownership issues. Member Dimit noted that two board members need to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. Member Peggy Patton told the public that she has contact information for local lawmakers [Naomi Jakobsson](#) and [Mike Frerichs](#).

The Board of Education adjourned at 9:01 p.m. The [next meeting](#) of the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education will be April 6, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., at 205 N. Race Street, Urbana.

