



## **URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT #116**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**JEAN F. BURKHOLDER**

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER**

205 North Race St. Urbana, IL 61801

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

8:15 p.m.

[www.usd116.org](http://www.usd116.org)

*The mission of Urbana School District 116, a multi-cultural community committed to educational excellence, is to ensure that all learners acquire knowledge, develop skills, and build character to achieve personal greatness and help create a better global society, by providing innovative, comprehensive programs, respecting individual learning styles and cultural differences, and fostering caring and nurturing relationships, while engaging each student, every family and the entire community.*

Mr. John H. Dimit, President

Ms. Ruth Ann Fisher, Secretary

Ms. Elaine Gehrmann, Member

Mr. Paul Poulosky, Member

Dr. Preston L. Williams, Jr., Superintendent

Ms. Benita Rollins-Gay, Vice-President

Ms. Brenda Carter, Member

Ms. Peggy Patten, Member

Ms. Lori Johnson, Board Secretary

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

### **2.0 ROLL CALL**

### **3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

### **4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### **5.0 ACTION ITEMS (individual)**

#### **5.01 Acceptance of Superintendent's Notice of Retirement**

Approval will be requested to accept notice of Superintendent's retirement.

#### **5.02 Employment of New Superintendent**

The Board of Education will vote to appoint a new superintendent.

### **6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Press Statement

On behalf of The Board of Education for Urbana School District #116

President John Dimit

1/20/2012

Superintendent Preston Williams has informed the Urbana School Board of his intent to retire at the close of the 2012/2013 school year. The Board is greatly saddened yet challenged by this announcement. Preston at the time of his retirement, has served Urbana for 27 years as teacher, coach, dean, several positions at central office, and as our Superintendent for last 5 years. Over these years, Preston has impacted the District and individual students in many ways. Most importantly, as Superintendent, he convened and led a diverse community based group to establish a long term vision for our school system, one that recognizes the worth of all students, commits the District to assisting each student achieve personal greatness, values the contributions of all teachers and staff, reinforces our District's role as a leader in education, and confirms our critical participation in making Urbana a wonderful place to live and raise a family. The professionalism, leadership, and enthusiasm Preston has brought to the Superintendent's office will be greatly missed. Regretfully, this transition comes way too soon; however, the Board respects Preston's decision as he and his family enter this new phase of their lives. As is Preston's way of always being well prepared and anticipating the next challenge or opportunity, Preston has given the District the opportunity to properly prepare for his departure. The Board is confident that this intervening time period not only allows the District ample opportunity to prepare for new leadership, it also provides Preston the opportunity to complete several tasks and add to his impressive accomplishments.

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We also recognize that Preston has been an outstanding mentor, leaving the District in the capable hands of many well-qualified administrators. The Board will meet on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, to formally accept this scheduled retirement. At that time, we will also announce our plans for moving forward with the next phase of District leadership. As we move through the intervening 18 months and approach the actual retirement date, the District and Board will have more comments and the opportunity to celebrate Preston's extensive contributions to District 116 and to public education throughout east central Illinois.