

# Citizen's Advisory Committee

U-High

ISU

Metcalf

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Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2009

University High Library

7:00-8:45

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**Call to Order:** Bob Dean called the meeting to order at 7:10.

**Attendees:** Bob Dean, Bob Piker, Kevin Eack, Karen Irvin (Metcalf Representative), Michelle Hardman, Jan Murphy, Valerie Wilder, Joan Hill, Mark Adams. (Absent: Eric Ruud, Ken Fansler, John Tuttle and Judi Doubet)

**Introductions and Acknowledgement of Visitors:** There were no guests present for this meeting.

**Minutes:** Prior regular meetings are approved and posted on the web at: <http://www.uhigh.ilstu.edu/cac/index.htm>

## **Legislative Issues:**

Eric is working to schedule the legislative forum for the laboratory schools with our current legislative members.

## **Those Who Excel:**

This program is currently on hold because it has been cut from the State Budget.

## **Technology:**

The group reviewed several articles pertaining to schools utilizing technology. A committee has been convened to study a one-to-one netbook initiative at U-High School. (Members: Jim Kurz, Bob Dean, Jeff Hill, Tim McKeown, Joan Hill, John Tuttle, Ken Fansler, Mark Walbert, Scott Genung, and Neil Styczynski)

## **Several Issues to Tackle**

Ownership (there are advantages for software, consistency, and pricing for U-High to own laptops)

Repair / Maintenance

Software – Restrictions, etc

Associated Legal Items

Pricing (shooting for a target price per netbook, w/tablet functionality)

Monitoring (U-High will monitor during school day, but students/parents are responsible for monitoring use outside school hours)

Computer Assignment (Same machine year to year, Summer School use, etc)

## **Advantages:**

Students always have access to their own assignments on their own machine

Flexibility: During travel or downtime they have their homework available to them (anywhere, anytime)

Provides students with access to the same software (currently – school machines and home computers may have different software)

Preparing students for postsecondary options as online learning grows more popular

Anticipate having ability to shut down laptop if stolen/missing

Paper reduction may be realized through electronic handouts and materials

## **General Notes:**

We are in a good position to take on this initiative. We have spent years building capacity of teachers to modify instruction to take advantage of available technology. This is a tremendous long-term investment because once teachers become proficient in using technology, it is easier for them to adapt to new technologies – a continuous learning curve.

There are schools across the nation engaged in one-to-one laptop initiatives, but it is not common in Central Illinois.

Goal is to launch the initiative in the Fall of 2010 (all students, 9-12). However, a final decision will not be made until we have the right computer and have worked through all the logistics.

We learned a lot from a small group of students who were asked to pilot the use of netbooks.

U-High does not plan to eliminate textbooks as part of this initiative. However, it is likely that teachers will gradually move away from textbooks as better digital materials become available.

Assuming we hit our target price for the computers, we anticipate increasing the technology fee by \$25 to help fund this initiative.

We anticipate a 4-year cycle of ownership.

## Report from Administrative Representative: Robert Dean

**U-High Graduation Date:** Proposed Date is the weekend of May 14, 2010. Seniors last day would be May 13, 2010.

Currently last student day for all students is May 21, 2010. Graduation is normally scheduled for the Friday before Memorial Day. Because we finish so early, we have an opportunity to experiment with an alternative graduation date. U-High administrators will survey senior parents to see what option they prefer (May 14, 15, or 16).

### **Advantages:**

Seniors will no longer have a delay between their last student attendance day and graduation, which will enable them to move into their summer activities a little earlier. An earlier date will also reduce the number of seniors missing graduation due to end of the year athletic conflicts.

**Stroud Updates:** Bids will be opened on December 1, 2009. This project will likely be complete December, 2010.

**Building Updates:** Gym floor repairs have been completed. The university is processing the insurance claim. We opted to complete more work than the insurance estimate allowed for aesthetic reasons and to insure that there would be no future issues such as mold.

**University Master Plan:** Meetings are underway to review the current master plan for the campus. The master plan is always a work in progress and is available for viewing on the ISU website. Recently there was an article in the Vidette that made reference to the campus priority list for Capital Projects. 1<sup>st</sup> is the Milner Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Mennonite College of Nursing and 3<sup>rd</sup> is the rehabilitation of the College of Education building (Degarmo) and building a new Metcalf Facility.

While a new Metcalf is on the list, we want to remind our families that it can take years for any project on the list to get funded. Campus priorities can also shift over time. No need to get too excited yet!

## Budget / Economic Impacts:

### **Elimination of Parent-Guardian**

**Transportation Reimbursement:** This program has been eliminated due to state funding cutbacks.

### **National Board Certification**

#### **Stipend for Teachers:**

The state funding for this program has been reduced. However, the lab schools will continue to provide a \$3,000 annual stipend for board certified teachers.

### **Passenger Van Restrictions:**

Schools can no longer transport children in vehicles which carry more than 10 persons - effective summer of 2010. We are currently exploring other options as our ability to economically transport teams with a small number of participants is impacted. Our costs could dramatically increase if we end up using more 8 passenger vans (due to the need for more vehicles, more drivers, more miles, etc.) Buses are a poor second choice due to their high costs.

Some schools have taken the approach of purchasing Multi-Use Activity Buses.

### **Fiscal Landscape for Schools:**

Budget difficulties are not unique to Illinois. All states are struggling to maintain high quality education in this current economic downturn.

Illinois is currently facing an 11-13 billion dollar deficit. This is one of the worst budget deficits in the country. An article is available on line which outlines the current budget issues for the State of Illinois - ([www.ctbaonline.org](http://www.ctbaonline.org)). The state legislature will have to address this problem during the spring session. All signs point toward significant reductions to schools and other state agencies. In planning for this, Dr. Dean has gradually established a reserve fund that he will use to address state funding reductions that come our way.

## Lab School Notes:

The lab schools continue to see success in all areas, academic and co-curricular. Test scores continue to be high. U-High made Newsweek's list of top high schools for the second year in a row. Students continue to excel in all of their activities – athletics, theatre, debate, music, etc. We should be so proud of them.

**New Courses:** Approved new AP Courses in Biology and Economics.

**Metcalf Orffcats:** The Metcalf Orffcats (a performing musical group) have been invited to perform in Milwaukee this weekend at the National Music Teachers Conference. This is a wonderful example of a coordinated effort between an ISU music professor and a Metcalf music teacher.

**U-High Chorus:** Will perform live on WMBD on November 18.

**Debate and Speech Teams:** 70 students are now involved in this rapidly expanding program.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

**2009-2010 Meeting Dates:** September 8, November 10, January 12, March 16, May 11