

RTA news from the Rep Meeting, April 17, 2007

1. RTA and Adam Urbanski recognized Manny Rivera as an advocate for the children and friend of teachers. He is leaving at the end of the week to work with Governor Spitzer.
2. Dan Clemente, president of BENTE, was also presented. He will speak at the Board on Thursday, speaking against the Board member, Cynthia Elliott who spoke badly against the BENTE staff during their contract time. She also had unkind words to say about teachers. Adam Urbanski is asking teachers to go to the Board meeting on Thursday (April 19) to support the BENTE union.
3. The new acting superintendent, Dr. William Cala, was introduced. He said that he is first a teacher and needs to be near classrooms to understand what students need. He said that in Fairport he would visit and co-teach in one classroom each month. He said that "he wants to do what is good for kids."
4. Advantage Credit Union will have an RTA/ATM card (that will automatically be received by RTA members). 1 cent per transaction will go to Peter Castle Scholarship Fund and if in one calendar year the total is less than \$1,500, the Credit Union will donate the difference. This type of card is called an affinity card.
5. RCSD is planning to change the Dental Plan from Excellus to Health Economics Group. The contract states that the district can change to any carrier as long as the benefits do not diminish from what had been negotiated. You will receive a side by side analysis of benefits from what we had to what the new program will be. John Pavone had contacted other unions whose districts had gone with this plan (Brighton, Holley) and they are happy with this carrier. The district is looking to begin the new program on July 1. When asked for specifics, John Pavone said that a cleaning that was covered by only \$25, will now cover \$40. Mr. Pavone said that most local dentists are on the list that accept this carrier. If you have a concern or find something covered less than before, let John know.
6. You will receive a ballot by next week for the RTA officer election. Put the ballots in the secret ballot envelope, put the envelope in the return envelope and sign the back of the returning envelope only. It's important to vote because there are some highly contested offices. If you do not receive a ballot, go to RTA to sign an affidavit and get a ballot.
7. The Calendar Committee published a tentative calendar that will go to the Board on Thursday. There are 183 days for students, 185 for teachers (only 3 snow days) and make up days are: 4th -- May 22; 5th -- March 20; 6th -- to be negotiated.) The year begins early; June's Regents week is late (set by Albany) and is a leap year, we have lots of little vacations or extended holidays (i.e. Christmas). In the RTA contract it states that teachers will only work

185 days. I'll put one in your boxes tomorrow.

8. Vote Cope pins for contributors will be coming out soon. Please join to be a member.

9. Grievance Committee -- Martha Keating was meeting with Douglass teachers to help them to explain what is happening with restructuring. She also said that many grievances have been won and the district will be paying out \$800,000 in penalties. However, for the Master's grievance, the district still has the opportunity to appeal, but may not meet the deadline while changing superintendents.

10. Urbanski talked about the Future Leader Institute. There are some forms that are being sent out to the building that will be put in your mailboxes. The application is due by April 22 and if you have any feedback on the forms or information, e-mail Adam.

11. There was a question about secondary late start that was being piloted in some schools this year. Teachers were asking if it will be continued and/or expanded and/or dropped. Adam said that he cannot get anyone in Central Office to discuss it or make a decision until the new acting superintendent comes in.

12. The results of the survey that went out to special service teachers asking if they wanted to continue city-wide meetings was an overwhelming yes for 2007-08. This includes art, music, librarians, phys ed, etc.

UNOFFICIAL REP ASSEMBLY NOTES