

RTA representative meeting, April 22, 2008

1. Awards were given to 13 new interns.
2. The teacher from Marshall High School who spoke at the second dinner seminar with J. C. Brizard about the foul and abusive language that students use had presented a petition that she had passed around her school. She also is asking that all schools do the same and have them sent to Adam Urbanski so that the union can do something about disruptive students. The reps have the petitions available.
3. The calendar for 2008 -09 was in a recent Administrative Bulletin. John Pavone spoke about a few points of interest: students will report on Wednesday, there is one less Superintendent's Conference Day, the separation of Good Friday and April break was determined by the Monroe County schedule (they said it is because schools want to be closed on April 20 – the anniversary of Columbine – because they are afraid of a copy cat, there are 5 snow days, and grades 7 and 8 will have classes during regents week in both January and June.
4. Rep elections should be happening in schools prior to the end of the school year.
5. Masters Grievance – The RTA continues to collect information from teachers who may be eligible. Any teacher hired after July 1, 2000 without their Masters at the time of hire, should send their information to the RTA. As new teachers get their Masters they should give a copy of their diploma to HR because their step increase would occur in the next semester.
6. Vote Cope – You will receive a form to sign up (Vote Cope only asks for \$1.00 or \$2.00 per pay period). It is more important than ever to support pro-education candidates, for phone banks, for lobbyists, etc.
Duffy, who had been endorsed by RTA, has found a loophole in the system and is trying to keep from giving \$11 million to the City School District which could cost 150 to 200 teaching positions and larger class sizes. In Albany Robach, Alessi, and Susan John have fought for the district, however, Morelle and Gant are voting with the mayor. NYSUT is still lobbying with Morelle and Gant to support the district.
7. A teacher at School 22 lost their house due to fire. If you are spring cleaning and have clothes for a 5 year old girl (wears size 6), an 8 year old girl (wears size 8) or a 15 year old boy (wears 32w/34l) who needs baseball equipment, and the teacher (size 6). You can deliver anything to RTA and they will arrange delivery.
8. Secondary principals have been informed that beginning this June the middle school students will have a regular length school day during regents week. It will cause problems in proctoring and scheduling of tests.
9. Martha Keating warned teachers to avoid confrontations with students because she has had many meetings in Central Office to defend teachers. She said not to block the doorway from students leaving. Some teachers have been injured. Let the student leave and call the office to inform them. She also recommends that everyone act “professionally”. She said that the district has a new attitude and are making teachers targets. Teachers have been in trouble for joking with kids and calling one a “blockhead”, touching a student, moving a chair, etc. Brizard had been heard saying that after that Marshall teacher

spoke about foul and abusive language that it was caused by the teacher.

10. The problem with getting subs and the new system: the RTA filed a grievance.

UNOFFICIAL REP ASSEMBLY NOTES