

RTA news December 15, 2009

1. There was a moment of silence for Dorothy Reed who passed away in November. She was the chairperson of the Human Relations Committee and was responsible for the Martin Luther King student awards assembly.
2. There is talk of 55/25 retirement for the state. As information comes through the RTA will pass it on.
3. Tier 5 will begin January, so if you know anyone wanting to be a teacher who can sub before then and register with the retirement system before the end of the year can be admitted into Tier 4 and will benefit them to do so.
4. The RTA newspaper, The Rochester Teacher, and the RTA website will be evolving and anyone wishing to work on them are asked to come to a meeting in January. The reps will be sent the info on where and when. The paper will become bimonthly and will feature what teachers are doing in their buildings. Info will be posted on the website.
5. RTA merchandise -- A flyer will be posted in your buildings on the RTA board showing what is available, prices, and how to get them.
6. Vote-Cope -- please become a member.
7. Martin Luther King student's name per building is due to RTA office by Friday, December 18, so that information can be sent out to parents and teachers.
8. Adam Urbanski said that the retirement incentive of 55/25 is being suggested by the governor to save money for the state. It doesn't require that districts participate for teachers to choose to retire. NYSUT is lobbying for cash incentives or additional years as credit. If you are considering retiring or have any questions about your benefits, contact the NYS retirement system. (There is a link on RochesterTeachers.com.)
9. A. Urbanski said that they are now working on a multi year contract now that the one year extension has passed.
10. A. Urbanski wanted to thank teachers for ratifying the extension to the contract and for having faith in the union on topics such as differentiation of pay (not to be equated to merit pay) and autonomous schools. There was a difference of opinions with the autonomous schools at first because the district wanted the principals to make all decisions. Now they've agreed that School Based Planning will be the decision making body. Five schools will be identified by the School Based Planning

Steering Committee. Buildings (SBP and RTA reps) should have a discussion with the staff and know that becoming an autonomous school needs 80% vote by all members decided through secret ballot.

11. Transfer applications are in the Administrative Bulletin. They must be turned in by the end of the semester.
12. The School Board is being presented with the idea of an Arts and Technology school at their next meeting. Edison and Franklin are looking at reorganization because of their SURR status. Major renovations will be undertaken at School 58 to help facilitate the expeditionary learning program.
13. NYSUT/AFT ballots are being sent out this week. They need to be postmarked before January 11.
14. Retroactive pay will be in Friday, December 18th's paycheck. The summer pay adjustment will not come until after the first of the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Zimmer