

RTA news from the December 18, 2007 meeting:

1. Masters grievance -- a confirmation letter was sent out to everyone who sent in a copy of their Masters certificate. You should receive it by Jan. 3. Another letter will go out to the 2000 people who have been employed by RCSD since the August 2000 date to ask if they meet the requirements to be included in the award. Money for the award will probably take until September before everyone is paid.
2. Vote Cope's new campaign will be beginning with the motto "Run with the PAC" (political action committee). Please consider joining to help teachers keep a voice in local, state, and national elections. Your job may depend on your support. Hillary Clinton has been asked to speak at the NYSUT Convention in April in NYC. (Please don't forget to vote in the NYSUT/AFT election. You should have received your ballot this past weekend.) John reported that there will be 2 elections in November in which both candidates have been endorsed by NYSUT and RTA: Dollinger vs. Robach and Koon vs. Alesi.
3. The Special Ed forum was held and a list of 40 issues were compiled. They will prioritize with issues they feel they can resolve.
4. Jean Claude Brizard will address the reps at the January RTA meeting and will stay on for the Martin Luther King awards.
5. January 22 will kick off the dinner seminars that RTA will be having. Superintendent Brizard will be the first speaker. There will be 2 hours of PD and dinner. It will be listed on AVATAR after the break. It will be limited to 500 participants.
6. The RTA committees list was given to the reps; however, if you would like to serve on a committee contact Jon Hickey (jhickey@rochesterteachers.com) or Adam Urbanski (urbanski@rochesterteachers.com).
7. 7th and 8th grade teachers will no longer have to give the DRA according to CO's Connie Leach, the secondary chief. There will be another test to replace the DRA.
8. Dan Dunne, co-chair of the sabbatical committee, encourages teachers to apply for a semester or a year sabbatical. If you contact Dan at Monroe he will send you his power point presentation on sabbaticals, or he will help you to review what you've written. You can get an application from him or from the administrative bulletin. You receive 60% of your salary on sabbatical. The application deadline is February 1st.
9. Adam Urbanski was asked about Cynthia Elliott. He mentioned the letter that was in the D&C written by a 36 school teacher. Urbanski said that the district has been lax at hiring teachers of color. He said that he did "not want to be baited into a discussion that is too ludicrous to be debated." He continued that teachers need to know the students as well as the subject matter to help children succeed. Urbanski said that Superintendent Brizard believes the same. Urbanski also said that he disagreed with Cala's comments in the paper supporting Cynthia Elliott.