

RTA representative meeting, February 26, 2008

- The union has provided each building with one copy of **2008 Educator's Tax Book**. They used to sell it but when they just arrived, even though they were ordered in October, they decided to give each building a free copy. If you would like to use it, see Mary Zimmer.
- **RTA dues for 2007 were \$759.56.**
- **Extreme Classroom Makeover** application is due on Friday, Feb. 29. Only 4 applications have been received and Margaret Sergent is hoping for more. She said that the written part needs to have up to 500 words only.
- **Rochester Teacher Academy** will complete its present classes in March. They feel that most teachers have completed their PD hours and will save their budget to offer classes during the summer when teachers want to earn hours for next year.
- Give more or join **Vote-Cope**. They need help for the grass roots campaigns that impact school budgets, both city and suburban. The Vote-Cope campaign starts in two months.
- **President's report:**
 - In the new Rochester Teacher there are **dates for the dinner seminars that have been changed**. There is a workshop this week February 28 on Language Acquisition. However, a new one will be on March 12 which is an encore with the new Superintendent. Adam Urbanski said he will speak to the snow day issue. The March 11 date has been postponed until May 6 with David Hursh. They are or will be on AVATAR.
 - Adam Urbanski has been speaking with Gary Hewitt from Central Office making connections with judges and Mike Green on safety and discipline. He will be having meetings with them at East High. AU is hoping that Brizard will join them.
 - As previously reported, Superintendent Brizard wants to begin meeting with teachers as a **Teacher Advisory Team**. The Union has been working with him on how to select the teachers. There is a flyer explaining this in your mailboxes. Each school will select 3 teachers every semester. In elementary schools it will be one primary, one intermediate, and one special ed. Special subject teachers will vote for one of these department representatives in the area where your primary job is. In secondary schools they will vote for one senior high, one junior high, and one special ed. The nominations will be taken this week and the elections will be next week, the first week in March.
 - When asked about the purpose of this Team, Adam Urbanski said that he hopes that all schools will participate, and that they will meet once a month as a special interest group (all primary or all senior high, etc.) for a conversation with the Superintendent. The meeting will be after school for about 90 minutes. It will be an opportunity to give the Superintendent feedback, ask questions, and discuss what is happening in the buildings.
- There is an article in the new Rochester Teacher newspaper on **retirement**. Adam Urbanski said that J. C. Brizard appeared receptive at the recent Living Contract Committee when they showed him a compelling case that would save the district up to \$15 million in 5 years. However, he is

getting different advice from others. The Superintendent said that he will decide soon. AU said that he is “confident, but not sure” about a settlement. He said that the Union will contact anyone who will be eligible if something comes through. AU also said that no administrator has yet accepted the retirement. AU said that he is asking the same \$25,000 as an incentive for teachers who retire.

- **February Break** -- Adam Urbanski said that if there would be a change to work in what is traditionally February Break, he would have to negotiate the change of salary and work day calendar. He said that he would be reluctant to do such a thing and that not all students need extra days in school. If some kids need more instruction, he is welcome to have winter school and hire those teachers interested in working through the week in February.
- **Snow days** continue to follow state guidelines. What is in question is whether the school should close on a discretionary case by case situation. (The state says -20 degrees wind chill, and that day was -15 degrees wind chill.)
 - It was decided and in a written agreement that if students don't report, teachers don't report. (after a problem last year)
 - For a delay, Adam Urbanski will ask Central Office to be clear in the media for a one hour delay to say “for students, staff report” or “for students and staff”.
 - Jon Hickey suggested that Building Committee develop a plan if staff are to report one hour early and what responsibilities they would have. (i.e., work in their room, what time to report at a.m. supervision post, etc.)
- **Dental Plan** - If you are having out of pocket expenses that you question or did not previously have, contact John Pavone at RTA. He has interceded with the dentist provider and the new dental plan company to get reimbursement. We are still in a change over period.
- RTA Secondary School Handbook has been sent out to all secondary schools for resources for teachers.

UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY NOTES