

January RTA news:

1. 5 teachers were recognized for getting their National Board Certification. There are 32 Nationally Board Certified teacher in RCSD (highest number in NYS outside of NYC). If interested contact Steve O'Hara (check RCSD outlook) if interested. If you are in a needs improvement school like #9 you get a \$10,000 stipend each year for 3 years.

2. \$30,000 was reallocated to the Labor Management Committee to offset some legal fees that were submitted from the lawyer used by RTA. RTA was sued recently by an RTA member and won. However, the award to the RTA to pay court costs have not been paid because the person has claimed bankruptcy.

Adam Urbanski is looking to limit how much money is being spent on legal fees and will use alternatives for arbitration and mediation by using NYSUT resources and other trained personnel.

Central Office has named a new Grievance level 2 and 3 officer and more grievances are being cleared up. The union and the district are being encouraged to settle at lower levels of grievances so that legal fees can be reduced.

3. Superintendent Conference Day in March -- Instead of having a large conference, money will be allocated to each building (\$15 per teacher) to have a pm workshop and pay for the presenter, food, etc. Buildings can get together to pool their money together. School Based Planning has to decide on a plan, submit a proposal with a copy of the SBP minutes showing that the teacher constituency is deciding on their own Professional Development and send the application into RTA by February 9. If accepted the money will be put into the special item line for the dispersement of money. If not all schools apply for the money or are turned down, the money will be divided for the schools with plans. I gave Sharon the amount for our school. It was a little over \$1,000.

In the morning, the district may offer some volunteer PD. Otherwise, the time is for you to work on work related tasks.

When asked if schools could switch am activities with pm activities, AU said that the district did not want this because they wanted to be sure teachers stayed in the building. However, if a presenter is only available in the am, they can write that in their proposal.

If buildings need ideas for PD suggestions, they could contact Rebecca Boyle's office.

4. Reimbursement for going to CO for CSE meetings, long term hearings, and other school related meetings -- C. Michael Robinson said that you can get forms from Payroll to pay for parking (with receipts) and mileage. Payroll has a chart that says what the acceptable mileage is from CO to your building.

5. New Contracts are being printed in a lime green. It is also on line now at Rochesterteachers.com

6. Transfers -- There was an error in printing about how many schools you can apply to so they have extended the deadline to February 16 at 4:00.

A teacher from School 45 asked about our SURR status and should we have to reapply for our jobs if we do not AYP. Adam said the "letter is in the mail" from Manny about even though our schools haven't met AYP he feels we are moving ahead. He said that the letter talks about consequences and transfers, but no one really know what the NCLB rules will be. AU said that only if you want out should you apply for a transfer. He said if something happens (know what NCLB is doing) they would reopen the transfer process.

There is a program expanding at Marshall and Freddie Thomas called College Board in which teachers do have to reapply for their jobs. Those teachers who do not get accepted in the expanding schools will be in Round 0 for the first 2 years of Transfer Day.

If you want to transfer into a different tenure area, you have to apply for a job as if you are a new hire. Margaret Sergent said that the district tries to get you to quit your first job.

AU said that the district came up with a proposal that they haven't met on yet about which areas they do not want to allow to transfer. (Last year it was math and science). This year the list includes science, math, bilingual, special ed bilingual, technology, and vocal.

They also want to exclude Schools 54, Douglass, Monroe, and Charlotte from the transfer process.

AU wants to encourage SBP Teams to interview because by not interviewing schools are treating colleagues poorly who have in good faith applied to your school and you may end up with an exhorbitant amount of first year inexperience teachers as a result as Monroe did this year when they had over 50 first year teachers.

7. Rochester Teachers Academy (U Lead) will put new PD on AVATAR next week. They will also send out a notice to all teachers to let them know when to look at AVATAR.

8. Vote Cope campaign for new member is in April.

9. Cell Phones for Soldiers -- if you have any digital equipment (cell phone, pagers, PDAs, cameras, cords for any of these things are collected and sent to a place that will pay for them to be recycled. The money is used to buy pre paid phone cards for soldiers to call home. The Rochester Fire Department and Paychecks are helping the RTA in collecting them. If you have any to donate, give them to a rep and we'll take them to RTA. Mike Rogala said he would put a box in the office to collect them too.

10. Student Discipline Committee has been meeting and taking schools' plans to make templates for schools who do not have a plan. According to the contract (new:section 9; old:section 26) says that Building Committee should be

reviewing the school's plan. We will bring it up at the next Building Committee because we have not done this in years.

11. School Based Planning -- Adam wanted to remind committees that voting is not by majority, but constituency consensus. Each constituency has one vote.

12. Job sharing -- RTA reps have received 2 memos about this; if interested, see one of the reps. It is a contractual right and SBP teams cannot refuse to accept a plan unless justifiable. SBP 's job can be to refine the plan but not reject. Job sharers get full benefits even though working part time.

UNOFFICIAL REP ASSEMBLY NOTES