

RTA news from the June 19, 2007 Representative Meeting

1. RTA Scholarships were given to city school students and one student of an RTA member.
2. John Pavone talked about the new Dental Plan (Health Economics)--
 - * Should have gotten cards in the past week
 - * Info will be coming from RTA because it was in June 15 administrative bulletin and is on the RCSD website but members want info in hand (reps will get web link which I'll send to you)
 - * Reps given In-Network Coverage examples that I'll copy and put in your box (one obvious benefit is that private cleaning will be decreased by \$10 as a cost to you)
 - * There are 3 tiers of lists to choose a dentist or to see if yours is there:
 1. Excellus list with same rates;
 2. people who go to independent dentists;
 3. Health Economics dentist list. (With the new program, those going to Dental Associates and Aspen dental groups will continue to get full coverage.)
 - * It was clear from the discussion that reps want all lists sent to all teachers, so you may receive the lists during the summer. District was trying to save money by using e-mail. The union will contact them to do a mailing.
3. Master Degree Grievance -- The middle court has rejected the next appeal from RCSD. RCSD called the union asking how much it was going to cost them. Martha Keating said that they can still go up to the next court. She is feeling that the grievance and money to those eligible should be satisfied within the next year.
4. Avatar will be offering union workshops in the summer and you should be receiving info to register on Wednesday.
5. Professional Development hours during the summer -- Martha said that you can get all of your 36/24 hours during the summer if they are district approved workshops (such as U Lead/Rochester Teaching Academy) but can only get a maximum of 22 hours if they are individual hours from School Based Planning.
6. Legislative Action Committee will interview School Board Candidates and City Council members during the summer and report who they endorse in the fall.
7. Cynthia Elliott (Board Member) is putting anti RTA literature out on School Board stationary. She distributed on BENTE cars at a picnic stating that our new contract is causing them to lose jobs. The union may be filing an improper practice against her after conferring with NYSUT. You may want to let her know what you are thinking, but do not use your RCSD e mail.
8. Be prepared: One elementary teacher informed Martha that her principal has said that buses will be dropping students off at 8:30 in the morning and leaving because of the new schedule for secondary schools. Martha said that according to contract teacher reporting time is 8:45 and that first fifteen minutes is for teacher prep time in the classroom. If there is a problem, principals can look into other solutions, ie using paras at that time.