

- Eric Massa spoke to the Rep assembly. He is running against Randy Kuhl in November and was asking for an RTA endorsement. When RTA approached NYSUT and AFT they said that Kuhl's record in the US Congress is the worst of all representatives on educational issues. Massa is supporting universal health care; getting out of Iraq; keeping companies from leaving the US so that tax dollars are lost for education; and strengthening the dollar.
- **Dental Information:** RTA gave us 3 documents that will be on the RTA website (www.rochesterteachers.com). The first compares the amount allotted for services from the old program (Blue Cross Dental) and the new (Home Economic Group). The second lists all the RCSD Preferred Providers who will pay all for general services even if Home Economic Group's coverage is less than their normal rate. The third is the list of dentists who accept Home Economic's Group as an insurance company. The list changes yearly as dentists choose to be taken off or added to the list. Some dentists are on both sheets. If they are on the RCSD Preferred Provider, then all services are covered.
- The **Classroom Makeover Teacher** has been chosen but it has not yet been announced.
- The Superintendent is presenting his **budget** this evening (Tuesday). Adam Urbanski said that he and John Pavone met with Brizard this afternoon and the #'s may change depending on the state senate and legislature. They are presently adding money that is coming to school districts. (This is a good example why you should become a VOTE-COPE member because the lobbyists are working to bring more money to the city schools.) Urbanski said that the budget emphasis was on: reduction at CO; redeploying people from CO; supporting what is closest to students; alternative to suspensions; increasing occupational and technical education; **assured no teacher cuts or layoffs**.
- Urbanski said that he pressed for the **retirement incentive**. The Superintendent responded that they were not prepared to deal with the fallout of retirement this year. Brizard said that the Human Resources needs to "shape up". Urbanski has a commitment to negotiate for retirement for next year. For more information, go on the RTA website and read the Rochester Teachers.
- **Teacher Advisory Teams.** When asked about the groups, Adam Urbanski said that Brizard is anxious to start meeting. He does have a scheduled meeting March 25 with music teachers. Jonathan Hickey is coordinating the lists of teams. If the reps have had the election they should forward the names to J. Hickey.
- **Violence in the schools** -- Urbanski was asked if there is any follow up after last week's dinner meeting where this was discussed. Brizard does not want to have out of school suspensions. Urbanski said that is fine if there are services and alternatives for disruptive students. AU said that teachers are skeptical after a decade of no alternative choices for discipline problems. AU said that "Crimes committed in schools must be treated like crimes. Possession of weapons and assaults are crimes. There is no need to lower standards." There are absences for assaults in the contract, however, it

appears that CO is saying that an assault is not an assault and not allowing these absences. A report from the police will be helpful. Contact Martha Keating if there is a question about it. April 24 there will be a Crime Victims workshop on assault at RTA. If interested, call RTA and ask if there are any openings.

- Problem with **subs**: RTA has become aware of it. There seems to be a problem with the phone system. There is a meeting this week to discuss it with CO.

UNOFFICIAL REP ASSEMBLY NOTES