

RTA news from the March 20, 2007 Representative Meeting

1. Hospice Care has contacted Margaret Sergent (RTA Secretary) looking for volunteers to work with the terminally ill. If anyone is interested, contact her at RTA.
2. Adam Urbanski is running unopposed as President of the RTA. Elections will be held in late April, early May. If you have moved make sure you've sent RTA your change of address, or you can give it to me and I'll make sure the secretary at RTA gets it.
3. The Middle Courts agreed with RTA on the pay scale for the Masters grievance; however, RTA's Martha Keating said she expects the district to take it to the next level to continue arguing the issue. She anticipates another 6 months before it goes to the next courts.
4. Concerning the Special Ed issues discussed last month, there is a synopsis that I will post in the Staff Lounge and will put in the Special Ed teachers' mailboxes.
There will be a Forum for teachers working with Special Ed students on May 2 (Wed) from 3 to 4:30 with RTA officers, location to be announced.
5. Rochester Teacher Academy (U Lead) is scheduling more workshops on AVATAR which they will send a district-wide notice when posted.
6. Vote Cope - members will be receiving a new pin (specially made this year -- not a flag pin) for contributing. I am asking again to consider donating \$1 or \$2 per pay check to become a member of Vote Cope. It is an organization that brings benefits to you now (they lobbied that you do not have to pay 3% for retirement after 10 years of service, they lobby for money to come to education in Rochester, they help preserve medical and COLA benefits for retirees, getting teacher friendly board and legislative members, etc.) I will be coming around asking for you to join in the next month.
7. President's Report --
 - *snow days was an achieved goal of saving the April vacation.
 - Professional Development was still on for March 23.
 - Next year's calendar will have 4 snow days (calendar is being worked on for 2007-08)
 - *Adam Urbanski is meeting with Douglass teachers -- the state is calling it a "closing", the district is calling it "restructuring". Frederick Douglass will become 2 to 3 smaller schools: one is SUNY Brockport college prep, another is college boards from Marshall and in a year a third will become college boards from Freddie Thomas.
 - *This Thursday is Manny Rivera's budget presentation -- AU will not see it until Thursday afternoon but has heard that there is no devastating news to

teachers (except for teachers at CO, 6 to 7 positions may be eliminated); there is money (500,000) for lowering class size but probably at secondary; \$3 million will be designated for summer school for students not meeting standards. This is phase 1 of students not meeting standards will have a 200 day school year. AU said that the union is saying that the extension of the school year for teachers will only be on a voluntary basis and will be compensated.

* At the next RTA meeting in April Manny Rivera will be invited to be recognized by the union.

*The Board will announce the interim superintendent at the Board meeting Thursday.

AU said that he is hearing more talk of a former administrator (ie retired) person coming into the position.

UNOFFICIAL REP ASSEMBLY NOTES