

RTA news from March 4, 2010 meeting (February meeting)

1. **Rules and Bylaws Committee** -- encourages reps to send an alternate to each meeting, if they are unable to attend, to bring information back to the building.
2. **Grievance Committee** -- the last group for the **Masters award** should see their money in the March 26th check.
  - **Excellus group** met with RTA officers. They want you to know that if you want the \$500 **Healthy Rewards** at the end of the year, you must enroll soon to get full benefits. If you enroll later, you will not be able to earn the full reward. Spouses can enroll also.
  - **Summer school back pay** should have been in your December 18, 2009 check. If you believe you did not get the correct amount, copy your check stub from that date and send it to Martha Keating.
  - Secondary **school transfers** have been extended to March 12 and for all school levels, the **cap limit has been lifted** and you can send your transfer papers to any number of schools.
3. **Vote Cope** -- A new campaign is beginning with the slogan "You can complete the puzzle." Please join to help work for teachers' rights, eg. lobbying effort of Faith Committee and students to Albany to let legislators know that not all the community is in favor of mayoral control.
4. Labor Council -- 4 teachers were trained in the United Way Leadership Training Program.
  - March 27 at MCC there will be Labor Delegation Meeting. If anyone is interested in attending, contact Margaret Sargent at RTA.
  - **United Way Campaign is under way.** If you want designation forms, contact Margaret Sargent.
  - AFL-CIO is very supportive in the struggle with mayoral control.
5. **Legislative Committee** -- Political scene is very volatile, so stay informed.
  - **25:55 retirement**; one time offer only with a 3 month window to sign up. It will be submitted to Senate and should go into effect on June 3 for 90 days. If you are thinking to retire and want to get the **absentee reduction money**, write a letter now (the deadline was March 1, but send as soon as possible) and write that you will retract the resignation if 25:55 does not pass. Send a copy to Martha Keating.
6. **Negotiation Committee** - the district has agreed to meet once a month on a single issue. The first meeting was scheduled on Feb 26, but now rescheduled for March 19. The first topic to be discussed is safety.

7. Human Relations Committee -- The Martin Luther King award ceremony was a success and Barry Swan thanked all those who attended. He said that one family had 3 recipients from 3 different schools.

8. **President's Report -- Autonomous school selection** is to be announced. The School Based Planning Steering Committee met and selected Schools 15, 19, 58, and Freddie Thomas. There were 7 schools who submitted but 3 of them did not have 80 % of the vote. (The 3 schools who did not have 80% of the vote were Applied Tech at Edison, Northwest and Northeast at Douglass.

- **Mayoral Control update** -- The union is working on 2 fronts: in Rochester and in Albany. The Assembly will vote it in because of the support of Morelle and Gant. When the Faith Community and students went to Albany they met with the Senate education committee who had heard from Duffy that the community was for this proposal. They are now looking into the truth of this.

- March 20 the unions: RTA, BENTE, Rochester Police and Firefighters will be picketing the Mayor's Ball. They are asking that people come downtown and park in the lot behind the Hyatt to fill the parking lot between 5 and 5:30 and stay until 7. There will be informational picketing and a room at the convention center is rented out by the unions with refreshments. More information will be coming out.

The mayor has accused unions of paying demonstrators as protestors. Please come out to prove him wrong.

- Tuesday, March 9, Malik Evans is holding the scheduled community forums that the mayor cancelled to get the community's perspective of mayoral control. Teachers are encouraged to attend, but not speak unless you are a city resident and speak as such.

- Local college presidents are endorsing the Mayor's plan. Teachers should let their alma maters know that they are not contributing to the college funds when students call until they support their alumni.

- **Transfer Process** - again the deadline for secondary schools has been pushed back to March 12 and there is no cap on the number of places you can apply. There are some schools that you cannot apply to: Montessori, IB programs at Wilson Foundations and Commencement and the 4 autonomous schools.

- Adam Urbanski is meeting with district officials about the schools that are under state review. The meeting is this Monday, March 8 and they will work with the district to protect the rights of teachers.

- There was discussion of the vote of no confidence at School 41. There has been discussion on Rachel Barnhart's blog at Channel 13. We discussed it in executive session. The proposal was tabled for a later date because Adam Urbanski feels that a collaborative resolution will be found.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Zimmer