

RTA news from the May 22, 2007 Representative Meeting

1. RTA/CIT gave awards to the outstanding first year teachers.
2. Bob Allen is leaving as liaison from RTA to RCSD as United Way coordinator. RTA gave him a plaque to thank him for all of his years of service. He said that the City School District gave more than last year: \$333,000 to United Way.
3. The RTA budget was passed.
4. The RTA Retirement Dinner is June 14 at the Burgundy Basin Inn. Any takers?
5. RTA officer election results were given. See the front page of the RTA Website for details www.rochesterteachers.com
6. Legislative Committee reported: The School Board race has 13 candidates at the moment for 4 seats. Malik Evans and Willa Powell have positive records at supporting teachers and students. They will be endorsed at this time from RTA. The other candidates will be interviewed and the other 2 endorsements will be announced after the interviews. Jim Bowers (past Board member) is running for City Council and will be endorsed now from the RTA. Remember to register to vote and vote in both the September primaries and the November election.
7. Placement Days are tentatively scheduled for the week of June 18 (tenure areas and days will be announced at a later date, however, Martha Keating said that she believes that Special Ed will be the last day, Friday, June 22.) Proxy forms will be in the next edition of the Rochester Teacher newspaper if you want to send someone in your place.
8. There is a reduction in the Grievance backlog as a result of the help from board member Van White and from the new "referee" process with Adam Kaufman (who was the past RCSD lawyer and is now an independent mediator).
9. Rochester Teacher Academy (formerly U Lead) will be offering 1 or 2 workshops to help those get last minute hours. Check AVATAR. They will also be offering workshops (8, 12 or 15 hours) in July. The workshops will be given in the afternoon to accommodate those teaching summer school.
10. Vote Cope – Pins are available to those who are members of Vote Cope. I will be putting info in mailboxes and a sign up form. It's important to be a contributor because it helps to support legislation and lobbying for teachers' rights, benefits and urban education. We only ask \$1 or \$2 per paycheck. Tear off the form and give it to a rep. Thanks.