

RTA news from the September 11, 2007 Representative Meeting

- The annual RTA calendars should be arriving within the week. There was a printing problem that caused the delay.
- RTA Conferences -- We should begin scheduling them based on the same number from last year. The official number of days and money allocated will come out after BEDS (October 15).
- Your Advantage Credit Union cards -- As reported last spring, you may be receiving a new card with an RTA logo. These Affinity cards will donate between \$1,500 and \$3,000 to the Peter Castle Memorial Scholarship fund. John Pavone said that if you received a PIN number recently, that was a mistake. He said to throw it away and your new cards should be arriving soon.
- There were 215 new hires in the RCSD this fall.
- There will be 2 articles of interest in the new Rochester Teacher newspaper:
 - Masters received after 8/31/2000, the district has lost 4 appeals, but have resubmitted a new appeal which should soon be shot down.
 - For those working in middle schools who had more student contact hours are being reimbursed from a won grievance. You can check on the RTA website about the dates if you know someone who might be eligible for the money. They must call Martha Keating at RTA before October 15.
- Martha Keating is looking for teachers who have worked in buildings with the Encompass program. Please call her if you have.
- Forms for the next delegate elections to NYSUT/AFT/NEA will be in the October RTA newspaper.
- Rochester Teaching Academy (U LEAD) has sent 12 new course descriptions to the PD office at CO for approval and classes should be on AVATAR by the end of the week.
- VOTE-COPE will sponsor an RTA holiday social on Friday, December 7 at SOHO.
- Two teacher reps to the CIT panel have been rotated off. Paula Givens and Margaret Sergent will be replaced by Kim Evans and Daisy Morales.
- Adam Urbanski spoke about the Superintendent search. He said that the district has paid between \$100,000 and \$160,000 to a search firm, who found only the 2 candidates this summer. The Board has said that the search has been reopened. Adam Urbanski feels that there are more qualified candidates now in the running and that the Board has promised not to keep the names a secret. Urbanski also believes that we shall have some more information by the end of October, beginning of November.
- The CIT program and mentoring won an NEA exemplary program award.
- October 5 -- Superintendent Conference Day - We will be receiving something in writing about this. This is the usual RTA designated day that has occurred in March in the past. There is not enough time to organize what we've had in the past; however, we will have a chance to choose

from a menu. Departments may choose to call meetings, but it will be your choice to go, depending on what you pick as your menu item.

- Administrator evaluation survey -- They were tabulated only when you had more than half (51%) of the evaluations returned. Only 23 buildings met these requirements. The administrator will receive the results as will the building reps. There will be an article on cumulative results in the Rochester Teacher for the 23 schools.
- Tim Multer, a rep from East High, spoke about going to New Orleans and volunteering with United Teachers and Helping Hands this summer. He told us about how New Orleans Parish is using this catastrophe to break teacher unions. Prior to Katrina they had 120 school buildings. Now they have 5 schools that have been approved to operate by the state (met 55% AYP), 26 schools that are “state recovery districts” and 6 charter schools. They took away all collective bargaining rights and teachers can be dismissed at the whim of an administrator.
- The union is continuing discussions about id numbers having social security numbers in them. They will keep us up to date on their discussions.

UNOFFICIAL REP ASSEMBLY NOTES