

Union News

November 2008

RFT Officers

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Kathy Dworman

Huron Park Elementary.....Patricia Buhlinger

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Kaiser Elementary.....Lahoma Jones

Lincoln Elementary.....Anna Lamer

Patton Elementary.....Vivian Knapp

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EJHS.....Linda Klann

John Rossi

Pierce Alternative School.....Frank Corak

Editor...Linda Bradley

Roseville High School.....Amy Colling

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Karl Koss

RJHS.....Sue Koss

Tracy Vargo

Cindy Welc

Elementary

Paraprofessional.....Cathy Monastero

Secondary

Paraprofessional.....Lois Arnott

Welcome Aboard

We'd like to introduce the following new hires.

Emily Hatfield-Milligan teaches at Roseville High School. Emily attended Spencerville High School in Ohio. She earned her BA at Bluffton University followed by her MA in Cultural Anthropology at Wayne State. Emily likes traveling, reading and hiking.

Bukola [Koko] Ojumoola was born in New York and grew up in New Jersey. Bukola is a full blooded Nigerian who has enjoyed visiting her parents' homeland thrice. Bukola did under-graduate work as well as Masters Work at Detroit-Mercy. Bukola has studied Electrical Engineering, Physics and Mathematics, Mathematics being her absolute passion. Bukola is deliriously married and has one three year old son who believes he is Spiderman.

Tina Rocco teaches at Arbor Elementary in the ADK. She is very excited to have a position in Roseville! She grew up here and attended Patton Elementary until third grade. Tina graduated from Eastern in December 2006. Her major is in Elementary Education. Her minors are Language Arts as well as Elementary Music. Tina has been substitute teaching for the past two years and loves knowing where she is going every day. Tina is recently married and currently lives in Sterling Heights.

Phillip Moore teaches math at Roseville High School. He previously taught at King High in Detroit for three years. Phillip grew up in Detroit and graduated from Denby High. He attended Wayne State. Philip played football for two years. Philip is married and has a two year old son. He enjoys watching sports, playing Madden Football and hanging out with his family.

Michelle Knotts teaches ECDD at Guest. She has been teaching for nine years. She has been married for ten years, has a ten year old son and a seven year old daughter. Michelle loves boating and snowmobiling with her family. She is thrilled to be part of the Roseville Family and greatly appreciates her team at Guest who has warmly welcomed her.

Keith Penhorwood teaches math at Roseville Junior High School. Keith graduated from Roseville Community Schools in 2002. He graduated from Bethel College in 2006 with degrees in Mathematics Education and Philosophy. Keith is glad to be back in

Roseville. He loves Ohio State and reading good books.

Joan James teaches Language Arts at Eastland Junior High School. For the past four years Joan taught ESL and alternative high school programs at Utica Community Schools. Joan is a Roseville graduate. She has a husband and two wonderful stepsons. Joan enjoys golf and playing the flute. She is delighted to be here with us in Roseville.

Alecia Russell teaches alternative education at Roseville Alternative High School. Alecia is a Roseville graduate and studied secondary education at Central Michigan University. She did the second half of her student teaching in London, England. After a difficult time battling with the decision to return home, Alecia came home. After substitute teaching in the district, Alecia knew immediately that she wanted to be part of the Roseville Community Schools.

Michael McWherter teaches Special Education at Eastland Junior High. He was previously employed as a Paraprofessional and a Special Education Aide in the Roseville School District for fourteen years. Michael is a Carl Brablec graduate. He attended Wayne State and is currently working on his Masters at Saginaw Valley. Michael is married and has two sons.

Laura Schneider teaches 7th and 8th grade science at Eastland Junior. Laura graduated from Oakland University with a major in Biology and a minor in History. Science is Laura's favorite subject and she truly enjoys doing labs and projects with her classes. She is very excited to have this

opportunity to work with younger students. Laura grew up in Warren. She enjoys playing tennis and scrap booking in her spare time.

We would also like to welcome **Derek Rupp**. Derek teaches at Roseville Junior High School.

Enrollment

Estimates show a decline in student enrollment of just over 200 students, with the most dramatic drop in kindergarten and at the junior high level. This decline equates to approximately a \$1.6 million dollar loss.

Did You Know?

Personal leave days may not be used the day before or the day after a holiday or one will not receive pay for that day except as one represents reasonable evidence of involuntary detention because of cancellation of reservations with a common carrier, official closing of a highway due to weather conditions or similar circumstances of an extreme nature. [p.50]

Under unusual circumstances, teachers may be allowed the use of a personal day before or after a holiday or during the first or last week of school, providing prior approval has been granted by the Superintendent. [p.57]

PAC Facts

From Julie Matuzak

AFT Michigan, the statewide organization, and AFT Michigan locals who have PAC funds contribute this money to political candidates. Monies also are used to help elect officials and party caucuses. In this two year cycle AFT Michigan has collected approximately \$80,000. In addition, the AFT, our national union has made contributions for federal candidates in Michigan totaling \$44,500 over the same two year election cycle.

Contributions go to both Democrats and Republicans, but because we support candidates and elected officials who support our issues, a larger number of contributions go to Democrats.

The largest percentages of contributions go to candidates in September to November period of any election year. During the rest of the time, contributions are made to attend functions held by sitting law makers. These functions are attended by our Legislative Coordinator and afford her opportunity to interact with legislators and discuss issues in a more informal setting.

Cope Cards

Out of ninety-four districts Roseville ranks number four for COPE/PAC collection. 55% of the funds

given to the state come from locals such as ours. We'd like to thank you for your contribution.

The AFT ADVANTAGE

AFT Advantage is a valuable member benefit that provides you and your family access to a **free** shopping program for AFT members. Save anywhere from 10% - 70% off electronics, apparel, home furnishings, tickets and much more. Participating businesses include Ann Taylor, Blue nole Jewelry, 1-800-Flowers.com, Land's End and Hewlett Packard. Visit www.aft.org/members to activate your AFT member account. By selecting the link **AFT+** Member Benefits, you learn about benefit details and receive discounts within your community. If you have any questions you may call 1.800.238.1133, ext. 8643 or 1.202.393.8643.

Wanted...Do You Know...Help!

If you know of a hotel with a bar/restaurant in NY...not expensive and kind of close to the airport contact Rebecca Phillips.

I'm looking for someone to purchase:

A lovely 1930's Tudor home that has been updated. Located in one of the historical areas of Mount Clemens. House has 3 bedrooms, kitchen with open dining lay-out, living room, 1.1 baths, and a partially finished full basement. Questions or to see the home contact Marilyn Ellison, Fountain Elementary.

Wanted – Big Wheel for grandchildren. Contact Clare Baxter.

Ann Hatcher is helping her 3rd grade daughter with a landmark project. Her project is to be on a half sheet of poster board. Points are based on neatness, use of a compass rose, map key and locations of landmarks in Harrison Township. She needs help with constructing buildings and her house. Please contact Ann if you have any ideas!

In need of a quick release bail bonds business. Contact Craig Nowicki at 586.777.6600. 12% discount for RFT members or family members. Confidentiality will be strictly adhered to.

Changing Times

What a great, crazy time of year. New students, new routines, new classrooms, new staff, new committees, new relocations for old buildings, new goals, new computers, new newsletter (thank you Linda Bradley), the list goes on and on. As the weather begins to cool, the days shorten, and leaves start to turn color, a predominant theme as I've gone in and out of schools this year is *change*.

Change: Schools are being built from the ground up. The elementary schools are rising fast, and the 9th grade wing at RHS is still on schedule to house students' midyear.

Change: A number of you have come up to me and expressed how good the fall has been because

you're in a new position, at a new school, or perhaps teaching a new grade level, and you tell me how the change has done you good.

Change: Unfortunately, there are some who have expressed that they have not been pleased with their schedule, or school, or grade placement, or have felt that working conditions have not changed for the better.

Change (for the good & on a lighter side): Matt Millen being released from the Lions. Although, I've heard more than one say, "the more things change, the more they stay the same" in regards to those Lions. That's yet to be decided. Can't get much worse, can it?

Change: Went to the Barack Obama website the other day in class with my students, and at the top of his web page, was the word "CHANGE". (Just to be fair...know that we also visited the John McCain site...and his slogan was "COUNTRY FIRST".) While many changes appear to be out of our control, be very clear that this IS one change that we can control.

Changing curriculums, changing schedules, changing people and places...I believe that change can be welcome or not. It can be simple or complex. Some change is planned for, and some unexpected. As educators, we learn to adapt with the situation. We assess, modify, and take action.

Action is what's needed. Come November 5th, change is going to take place. You do have power over this change. Please do what you can on November 4th to control that change. VOTE!

Dave Skidmore