

# Union News

## November 2009

### **RFT Officers**

President – Dave Skidmore

Executive VP – Lucy Thill

Elementary VP – Lahoma Jones

Secondary VP – Gary Scheff

Secretary – Susan Steinbacher

Treasurer – Jennifer Rose

### **Questions from a concerned parent of 3 school-aged children:**

We're all aware that times are not good in Michigan. The politicians in Lansing finally passed a budget last week. Unfortunately, the amount of money my school district will be receiving is being reduced.

I'm concerned about the affects this budget will have on my kids and their schooling. I have 3 kids, currently in 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Will they continue to have art, music, and gym, and other elective classes? Will they be able to check out books from their school library? If they need support from a social worker or counselor, will one be available? Can they ride the bus to and from school? How many other kids are in their classes: 20, 25, 35, or 45?

The answers are not good. Many districts have ALREADY made some of these cuts and raised the amount of pupils per class. Now my school district is being told they'll be cut nearly \$300 per

student for this year's current budget.

Politicians in Lansing are talking about prioritizing cuts, and saying all areas are doing with less. What saddens me is that many are too afraid to be talking about prioritizing areas that need funding. This would involve raising revenue, and as soon as you do that you'll be labeled a tax-supporter.

Call me a tax-supporter then, because I want my children to have the services, programs, and schools to compete in a new, ever-changing world economy.

It's time our politicians address the short and long term funding crisis in this state.

David Skidmore

Riverview, MI

*I took this opportunity to share with you a letter that I sent to the editors of our local papers.*

### **Building Representatives**

Alumni.....Carolyn Collins

Cheryl Yuschak

Dort .....Paul Kaleto

Jennifer Sedmak

Fountain.....Kathy Dworman

Kathy Hartsig

Huron Park.....Patricia Buhlinger

Connie Burton

Kaiser.....Staci Earl

Jannis Litz

Kment.....Judi Huber

Craig Williams

Patton.....Amy Yee

Steenland.....Anna Lamar

Wendy Caldwell

Eastland Middle.....Linda Klann

Joe Herbertson

Pierce Alternative.....Frank Corak

Roseville High School.....Roy Bjork

Bev Flayton

Brian King

Karl Koss

John Reinowski

Roseville Middle.....Sharon Hafelein

John Rossi

Special Education.....\_\_\_\_\_

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Elementary

Paraprofessional.....Cathy Monastero

Secondary

Paraprofessional..... Lois Arnott

Community Presence....Joyce Muszall

PAC Chairperson.....Wendy Caldwell

Social Chairperson..... Mike Zimmer

**Union Representation**

Union representatives know the contract. They know the when and where of work rules along with legal guidelines. Each representative is voted in to help you maintain the workplace as decided upon by administration and union members.

If you find yourself in a situation, unsure about where to turn, they are your first resource. They are there to brainstorm ideas, clarify contract language, interpret past practice and help you follow the chain of communication. They are there to support you.

Building representatives are present in each building or department to help you determine your next level of action whether you are having difficulty with an administrator or just have daily questions about the workplace. Take time to know who represents you. Take time to ask questions. Take time to know when you should take action. Take time to build a united front by working together. Take time to achieve common goals by establishing your network through professional camaraderie.

Newspaper Editor.....Linda Bradley

## **Community Presence**

The Big Bird Run was November 8<sup>th</sup> and RFT donated 800 bottles of water with our logo. RFT members were present to greet people and pass out water.

The RFT has also donated books to each elementary -50 of each title - Learn Responsible Behavior and Helping your Child Become a Reader. RFT building reps distributed books in their buildings.

Saturday, November 21, Roseville Community Schools is teaming with Radio Disney at Macomb Mall and is escorting Santa to his castle. There will be booths throughout the mall, RFT will have a booth. We will be giving away the books mentioned above, as well as extra water bottles. We are thinking of a craft that children could make to take with them compliments of the RFT. There will be balloons, helium compliments of RFT.

Nancy Gitter will have a booth with her project challenge students. We have asked to have our booths next to each other so the students could help visitors with the crafts. The Project Challenge booth will be giving away, gently used donated books.

Several teachers have volunteered to help at the booths, but any and all staff members are welcome to help.

## Computer Connection

Literacy Coach, Stasi Earl has developed a website for classroom use. Students and parents are able to access the site from home as well. Websites are categorized by grade levels. Each grade level contains a multitude of sites exploring reading, math, science and spelling. This website is educational based with no pop-ups. If you know of any websites that you would endorse, please e-mail Stasi. She periodically updates the ***Roseville Knowledge Nook*** and is looking for new educational sites to include.

Check it out at

## Good Things Happening

At ***Kment Elementary*** it has been a hectic, but great start to the opening of a new school. The newly combined staff is wonderful. They have had a Friday tailgating luncheon. Delicious! Mr. Johnson is doing a fine job trying to keep staff all moving in the same direction. The ***Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*** was well attended by parents, students, staff, administration and board members. They were pleased to honor Mr.Kment and his family. They have started an ***ACES*** program on Oct.1 by participating in the ***Exercising US Program***. Kids all over the USA exercised continuously from 8am – 6pm. Kment Elementary participated during the 1pm-1:15pm slot. They exercised with kids in New York and Connecticut. They will continue this program year long by walking or exercising as a school every other week. On Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> they participated in ***Walk to School Day***. All Kment students walked to school then gathered around the flag pole to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Every student also received breakfast to eat in their rooms. Kment Elementary continues to collect ***Box Tops*** to raise money for our school.

**Steenland Elementary** opened its doors with a burst of energy sending the summer dust on its way. Students, staff, parents' administration, board members and city officials attended in great numbers for the **Steenland Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**. All in attendance were pleased to honor Joe Steenland and his family. Elvis even graced the crowd with his presence. Several teachers have joined forces with Debbie Wilson and the **Childcare Program from Roseville High School**. Debbie brings a group of students once a week to Steenland. High school students prepare for their visits by making flashcards, cutting out patterns, or gathering necessary materials for teacher planned activities. They buddy up with younger students to promote a positive cooperative learning experience, to practice reading and writing skills as well as provide one on one direction during art projects. Steenland is working to become a **Green School**. Staff members and students are working together to recycle and become more Earth conscience.

**Dort Elementary** celebrated Deaf Awareness Month. This elementary school houses the **Deaf Program for Macomb County**. They had a speaker, classroom videos with supplemental activities to help all to learn more about the deaf community. Classroom interpreters also visited classrooms to talk about their roles within the program. Dort also celebrated **Red Ribbon Week** at the end of October. They had a speaker come from **C.A.R.E.** Staff and students participated in a door decorating contest, spirit days as well as correlating classroom activities.

Debbie Wilson supervises high school students from the Roseville High School Vocational Educational Program at Steenland Elementary.

### **Get Rid of Your Unwanted Knee Highs and Panty Hose**

Kim Glushyn teaches at Roseville Middle School. She uses knee high stockings and the leg/ foot part of panty hose when having her students 8<sup>th</sup> grade students create Metamorphic Sculptures. If you have any knee highs or panty hose you'd like to donate, she would appreciate your help.