

**Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers**  
**Executive Council Meeting**  
**November 9, 2011**

**Minutes**

- I. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** – approved as submitted
- II. **Announcements**
  - a. Next Executive Council/General Membership Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 7
  - b. Education Minnesota Political Conference, November 18 & 19 – though we are technically past the registration deadline, we could add a couple last minute members in the next couple days (end of this week). Contact the RFT office if you have addition(s). We are in a political landscape that is challenging to public education and involvement is important.
  - c. Education Minnesota Convention: April 27 & 28; we are allowed 15 delegates (teachers and education assistants)– will vote January 11 – interested members email [vpotter@rftonline.org](mailto:vpotter@rftonline.org) by January 10
  - d. Reminder: Building meetings can hold a drawing for a Byerly's \$10 gift certificate. Email Val at the RFT office with the name of the winner.
- III. **President's Report**
  - a. Insurance: open enrollment now/Rebate notification sent/Neopath Clinic to open – forms due by this Friday to ESC. Peter updated the group that there is a little box that needs checking on the Flexible Benefits Election Form. Even if you have not filled out a flex form in the past, you need to this year and do this part. The box says health reimbursement account and is near the bottom. The spouse part has to be filled out if they are 45 or older. Regarding the NeoPath clinic: it is likely to be at New Hope and could open immediately following winter break. The announcement of the premium rebate info that went out via email was mentioned. Whatever your monthly premium is will show up as additional salary on the December 16 pay check.
  - b. Teacher of the Year – Nomination period open now. The form is available online now at [rftonline.org](http://rftonline.org) on the main page. The teacher of year for 2012 will be named in the spring of 2012. Nominees should have taught in the state of MN for three years and be a licensed staff member (teacher's bargaining group). Colleagues, students, principals, parents and community members are eligible to nominate a teacher.
  - c. Human Rights – Nominations now open – Information was available at the meeting. Nominees must be advancing human rights and a member of Education MN.
  - d. Bus Drivers – Peter updated the group about school board discussions on privatizing busing. There have been claims made that savings would range from 1 – 1.5 million. This savings reflects point to point transportation only and does not take into account more complex transportation situations such as field trips, activity buses, taxi fare, etc. The private companies being considered pay considerably less in salary and offer no benefits. Members should consider if they should take action by contacting the board with their feelings. The board will look at this during the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- IV. **Benefits of Membership** ..... Denise Doohar created a tri-fold pamphlet detailing the benefits of membership at the local, state and national levels. Use this information in your building meetings and in conversations with staff. One idea is to spend a couple minute and share an idea or two (many to choose from) at each meeting so that members understand the benefits of membership and representation. Thank you for your efforts Denise!



- V. **Negotiations**..... Tracy Mena updated the group that negotiations have moved to cost with a low-ball district offer to counteract our initial proposal. The 8 hour day has been tabled for now. There may be more to report in December. With the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline removed, the negotiations could be lengthy. The point was mentioned that it seems strange to have low offers when the healthy fund balance has been mentioned at building meetings.
- VI. **Adjournment**

*Minutes submitted by Jacob Givand, 11/9/11*

