

RFT and District Reach Contract Agreement

	2007-2008	2008-2009
Salary Schedule Improvement	2%	2.5%
Extra Curricular (Extra Duty)	2%	2.5%
Health Insurance Contribution		
Cafeteria Plan	\$615/month	\$650/month
Severance Plan Single	\$411/month	\$446/month
Severance Plan Family	\$567/month	\$602/month

RFT negotiators were also able to move to a system of Paid Time Off (PTO). This increases the number of days available for teachers to use for purposes previously categorized as “sick”, “personal” etc. - eliminating the need for pre-approval in most cases.

Additionally, there are now provisions for those on the Cafeteria Benefit Plan to have the option of selling accumulated days back to the district when they reach thresholds of 30 and 60 days.

Job Sharing language was added to the contract, as well as clarifications on elementary preparation time and splitting of classrooms.

Compensation for Social Workers, Speech Pathologists, and Psychologists as “department heads” on district wide committees was also added.

The Contract was voted on in buildings on October 12, and the proposal passed.

YES votes	604
NO votes	91

Nominations for First Vice President

Due to the recent Presidential election, there is a vacancy at the First Vice President’s position. There will be a special election held at the November 7th combined Executive Council and General Membership meeting. Nominations must be submitted to the Election Chair at the RFT Office by **Wednesday, October 24** (email vpotter@rftonline.org or send a written letter of intent through interschool mail). The first notice of the special election was sent by the Elections Chair on October 12. Election rules are posted on our website rftonline.org, click on publications.

Eckhoff Elected President

Peter Eckhoff was elected as the President of the RFT on October 3rd at the General Membership meeting. This election was held to complete the remainder of the term vacated by Tom Dooher.

Votes cast:

Peter Eckhoff - 221
Dean Larson - 71
Ballots in question - 5

RFT Independent Audit Accepted

In accordance with state and national affiliates' regulations, the independent audit of the RFT was presented and accepted at the October 3 combined Executive Council/Membership meeting.

COPE Committee Endorses School Board Candidates

The RFT COPE committee has endorsed Helen Bassett, and Sherry Tyrell for School Board. The vote will take place on November 6, 2007.

A panel of RFT members interviewed all the candidates at the end of September and agreed to endorse those candidates who closely aligned with our vision for not only the immediate needs of the district, but also for education in the future.

Fall Social Success!



Once again the RFT Fall Social was the place to be on a Friday afternoon after a long, hard-worked week. On October 12 teachers and education assistants gathered at the Golden Valley V.F.W. for great company, great food and some fun door prizes. Thanks go to Karen Krussow (President, Education Assistants) and

Denise Dooher for hitting the pavement and securing those door prizes. The Social is a casual, kick-back way to thank all our members.

Membership Endorses Referendum Levy Campaign



The General Membership endorsed the campaign for the levy referendum at the October 3 Membership meeting.

Additionally it was approved to release \$10,000 from our reserve accounts to present as a challenge to teachers to match with personal donations toward the campaign to pass the levy.

Shane Schmeichel and Amy O'Hern presented information on how to get involved, and support the effort.

We continue to encourage all teachers to volunteer for phone banks, make donations, and campaign for passage of the referendum.



November American Indian Heritage Month

November 4	Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 6	Election Day
November 11	Veterans' Day
November 12	American Education Week
November 14	Education Support Professionals' Day
November 22	Thanksgiving

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