**RRTA Meeting**

**May 9, 2024**

**Attendance:**  Z. Artson-Crichlow, M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, C. Dean, L. Espinosa, K. Fager, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, M. Jenkins-Cox, L. Rapkin, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, Y. Wooten, M. Zimmer

**Absent:** B. Buckingham, K. Evans, M. Ferenchak, S. Flynn, B. Gerace, P. Givens, A. Johnson, M. Keating, F. Macek, E. Robinson, A. Smith, C. Smith, T. Stamper Webster, D. Sullivan, B. Swan, F. Valente, J. Zuniga

**Also in attendance**: J. Cox Hiler, B. Jones

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07.

 2. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: David Altobelli, Lillian Bonanni, Ronald Joy, Rosemary Tolhurst, and Dr. Alice Young. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The April RRTA minutes are posted on line within a week of the meeting. If there are any questions, contact Mary Zimmer and changes will be announced at the next meeting.

4. **Announcements**:

 a) Next RRTA meeting is June 6 at the RTA office at 10 am.

 b) An award for the school having the highest percentage of Vote Cope contributors each year will be called the Dave Altobelli award. This award is to commemorate the Dave’s work for Vote Cope.

 c) The Annual Retirement party for those retiring this year is June 11 at Casa Larga.

 d) There is an End of the Year Party for all RTA members on June 14 from 3:30 to 6:30 at Jo Li, 384 East Avenue. There will be free appetizers.

 e) May 21 are Monroe County School Board Elections (not RCSD).

 f) Charlie Dean has baseball tickets that he is offering for free. Contact him to get the tickets: Games are June 26 for RRTA reps and guest; July 24 for RRTA members; September 4 for all; and September 28 for all.

5. **Niagara on the Lake/Shaw Festival** — Kevin Fager reported for his wife, Cathy. The play is October 9 and after the RRTA newspaper came out she has been receiving questions and checks. It is a package deal for the bus ride and a ticket and cannot be separated. September 19 is the last date to get a refund if you buy the trip insurance.

6. **Dress A Girl/Savvy Sewers** — Gaya reported that they have many girl dresses in stock so they are now making larger dresses for older sisters or mothers. They get many requests for feminine packs.

7. **Vote Cope** — RRTA lost our dear friend, Dave Altobelli, who had chaired the Vote Cope campaign for years. Jason Valenti, an active teacher, has taken over the committee and we need to continue to support Vote Cope and Jason. Gaya said that 3 of her Dress A Girl members have signed up for Vote Cope. Consider increasing your pension contribution or donate a one time contribution in memory of Dave. At the NYSUT Convention, Rochester Teachers Association has moved up to be the 9th highest contributor district in NYS.

8. **RRTA Rep Elections** — Nomination form is in the April/May newspaper and nominations can be taken at the June 6 meeting in person. There are 17 positions available.

9. **Newspaper** — The April newspaper was sent out at the beginning of May. The August issue will have a memorial for Dave Altobelli. Mary Barnum will send out a reminder to all reps to write a tribute/memory of him that is 25 words or less. Mary Barnum made a motion to do this, Marie Cox seconded it and was passed by the group.

 Mary Barnum will ask Jason Valente to write up an article for the newspaper about Vote Cope and those contributors will be listed in the paper. Mary Barnum asked any NYSUT delegate to write an article of what happened at the May Convention. This paper will go to all retirees (2,300 people).

10. **Books for Kids** — Kathy Evans said the group is completing the year having visited 6 schools, 11 classes and distributed 194 books to first graders. The September meeting for organizing the 2024-25 school year will be held September 5 at the RTA office. Many donations have arrived in memory of Dave Altobelli and others. They have about $11,000 to start in September. Donations are taken to “Books for Kids/FLACE” and are tax deductible. You can also contribute when needing to withdraw from you IRA at 72 and is not taxed when the check is written and goes directly to the charity.

11. **Calendar** — June 6 is the next RRTA meeting

 September 5 — Books for Kids Organizing meeting

 October 9 — Niagara on the Lake/Shaw Festival

 Fall RRTA Picnic — Karen Huey volunteered to coordinate this finding a location and date.

12. Another long time RTA/RRTA, Christmas Party assistant, and Books for Kids member passed away this month, Lillian Bonanni. She will be missed.

13. **New Business:**

 a) Mary Barnum said there was a woman asking RRTA to distribute “University Women Association” literature at the RRTA picnic. She is an RCSD retiree, but not an RRTA dues payer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32.

Mary Zimmer, RRTA Secretary