

A MESSAGE TO JCEA MEMBERS ABOUT THE CONTRACT

Hey, Hey,

Rumors have been swirling around the schools and offices here in Jersey City about the contracts that are scheduled for a vote by the Jersey City Board of Education this Thursday, May 20. We hope we can stop the rumors by giving you a few facts.

- The four contracts being voted on by the Board of Education – for the teachers (JCEA), for the teacher aides (JCPPA), for the educational secretaries (ESAJC) and for the non-certified administrators and supervisors (NCASA) **are the same contracts the members voted to ratify in December.**
- Because New Jersey statute does not permit a contract longer than three years, the contracts were structured by the Mediator as a one year contract (for 2009-2010) followed by a three year contract (2010-2013). **Again, this is unchanged from the agreements that the members ratified in December.**
- **Since the contracts were ratified by the members, New Jersey law has changed.** With a bill signed in to law by Governor Christie on March 22, 2010, all public workers in New Jersey will be required to pay 1.5% of their pensionable salary to their employer to offset the cost of their health benefits. The effective date of the law is May 21, 2010. All public workers will begin paying as of that date unless they are covered by the collective bargaining agreement (union contract). If the Board ratifies the contracts, employees covered by the contracts will not begin paying the 1.5% until the 2009-2010 contracts expire (July 1, 2010 for secretaries and administrators/supervisors and September 1, 2010 for teachers and teacher aides).
- **The 1.5% payment has not been added to the contracts.** Your negotiating team has acknowledged that the new law will apply to the members (unless the law is overturned in the court case filed by the NJEA).
- **The contracts have not been renegotiated.** Your negotiating team met with the Board's representatives after the change in the law to discuss the impact of the new law, **but no new or different settlement was negotiated.**

These are the facts. We hope this quells some of the rumors. Now, more than ever, we need to stay united.

We hope to see you all at #11 School at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 20 to support the association. We will be having transportation available out of JCEA, M.S. #7 and FHS. Please call to R.S.V.P.

Thomas J. Favia
President

Bob Cecchini
First Vice President