

October 19, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing this letter so that we may be clear that this contract is great for therapists. Let us review the pluses and minuses of the tentative agreement.

Pluses from this contract:

1. 10 month school year - gives therapists choices
2. 11.5 % raise - you will eventually be making 11.5% more than you were previously making for a 12 month year while only working a 10 month year.
3. 5.5% of the 11.5% raise will be retroactive
4. Extra pay for working summers - Worth approximately 15% of your annual salary
5. Experience differentials go up by 11.5%
6. Longevity differentials go up by 11.5%
7. Educational differentials go up by 11.5%
8. Tuition Reimbursement goes up by 8.25%
9. Uniform allowance goes up by 8.25%
10. Continue to have sick days (10 for school year and 2 for summers)- three can be used as personal business days
11. Gain two days off between the end of the school year and the start of summer program - since we will now be aligned with the teacher's year.
12. Same health benefits
13. Accrued vacation will be saved (but the mechanism isn't finalized)

So in the plus column we have gained an 11.5% raise over four years and we will get approximately 15% for working the summers (along with the other benefits listed above). This is tantamount to a 26.5% raise plus the other benefits.

Minuses from this contract:

- 1) Giveback of **future** vacation days - since you always had to use 3 weeks in the summer you are really giving back just one week.
- 2) Give-up 3.5% of the 15% raise the teachers got (we get 11.5% instead of 15%)
- 3) Have to work two days before Labor Day (even if we didn't get summers off, according to this contract we would still have to work these two days).

Summing it all up - A therapist who made \$55,000 before this contract would now make approx. \$61,325 but would be making this for only working 10 months. If he or she also worked the summers for an additional 15%, his/her annual salary would be \$70,523.

How can we refuse this contract? Please understand that the UFT deal is excellent. This is a makeup year for us; the UFT and our Chapter pushed hard and got this. Please vote "yes" on your contract ballot. If you do not receive a ballot by mail by October 24, 2005 then please call Ray Frankel at the UFT (212-598-9268).

Sincerely,

Leslie A. McDonnell
OT/PT Chapter Leader