

***Tentative  
settlement  
reached.***

We are very pleased to announce that as of 7:00 PM on August 31<sup>st</sup>, the Board and the Federation have reached a tentative settlement on a new 3-year contract for all component groups in the bargaining unit. The agreement follows seven months of negotiations on issues affecting certificated staff, custodians, secretaries, school-related personnel and paraprofessionals.

***Loose ends.***

The days ahead will be spent preparing a Memorandum of Agreement, specifically identifying the new terms and conditions being proposed for adoption by the Board of Education and the 1500+ employees represented by AFT/Perth Amboy.

***Ratification  
preparation.***

Once the Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the respective parties, we will begin to prepare and distribute detailed ratification information packages, identifying all the proposed new terms and conditions that will apply to all employees (Section 1) and the specific terms applying only to each component group (Sections 2-3-4-5-6).

***The full  
scoop.***

When the ratification materials have been distributed, our telephone and e-mail lines will be open to answer questions about the proposed new terms. We will go to great lengths to make the written ratification packages as clear, detailed and self-explanatory as possible, but every new contract brings questions. We will welcome and invite yours, once you have the materials in front of you. It's our expectation that you will be a fully informed voter when the secret ballot ratification vote is held.

***Patience.  
Please.***

Without fail, following every settlement announcement come a flood of calls and conversational inquiries digging for details on the proposed new pact. We ask everyone to be patient just a bit longer, as we dot the i's and cross the t's in preparing the Memorandum and the ratification packages. You will have all the information and ample time to review before we ask you to register your vote. A tentative ratification schedule will appear in our next *Update*. Look for it at your worksite or at our website: [www.paf-aft.org](http://www.paf-aft.org).

***Thank you  
all.***

We want to thank our AFT activists and the Board's team members who gave their time and energy toward reaching this new agreement. We are confident that their labors will enjoy your strong support. Enjoy your Labor Day weekend.