

***Memo
inked!***

Nearly seven months to the day these negotiations began on February 10th, the parties have signed a Memorandum of Agreement, identifying all of the terms and conditions proposed for a new 3-year agreement.

***Preparations
finalizing.***

The execution of that document allows us now to prepare, print, assemble, package and distribute ratification portfolios to the 1500 people affected.

***Informing
you...***

While we have already begun the preparation stage, we estimate that we'll need at least the week of September 12th to the 16th to bring all the other pieces of the process together. We *aim* to have completed and individualized envelopes ready for distribution as early as possible during the week of September 19-23. That's our *target period* to begin getting the information into your hands, allowing you ample time to read, review, question, deliberate and decide. Please keep in mind that we're assembling packages for 900+ certificated staff, nearly 300 paraprofessionals, 150 school-related personnel, 83 custodians and 67 secretaries. It takes time and we all want it done right. We'll be asking our building reps. to assist in the distribution process. We know they'll be very helpful in facilitating a successful ratification process.

***Encouraging
you...***

Barring any emergency circumstances, we plan on conducting three (3) days of secret ballot voting from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 26-27-28. Twenty-four hours of open polls should allow 1500 people to make their way in to vote. Voting will take place at the Shanker Center, located on the first floor of our Proprietary House office complex @ 149 Kearny Ave. For newcomers, Kearny Ave. intersects Market St. between State St. and High St. in the city's southern section. The Prop House sits on the corner of Kearny Ave.'s 3rd block, after crossing Harrison Pl. Shanker Center's entry is in the rear of the building.

***...Because
ultimately, it's
up to you.***

District ID/photo ID will be required when reporting to vote. All voters will vote on Section 1 (the terms that apply to all) and on the Section that applies to their group 2-3-4-5 or 6. The count will be conducted following the close of polls at 6 PM on Wednesday, September 28th. The Board's ratification vote could then take place when they meet on Thursday, September 29th.