Hello ACE General Membership  
  
Good news!  We have reached a tentative agreement with the district on several economic items, including a 2.5% COLA. We will be holding a general membership meeting this coming **Tuesday, April 21 from noon - 1 p.m. on the Foothill Campus in room 4604** (new PSEC building)to discuss the terms of the agreement.   Food will be provided.  
  
Come find out more about the following tentative agreement on:

* **Article 8 - Pay & Allowances:**  A **2.5% COLA** to the ACE classified and classified hourly salary schedules retroactive to July 1, 2014.
* **Article 5.2 - Stewards:** ACE may have up to six (6) stewards.  A reduction from nine (9).
* **Article 5.2.1 -  Release Time for ACE President.**  100% paid release time for ACE president. Per the existing contract, the paid release time for the ACE president was ten (10) hours per week.
* **Article 7.3 - In-Service Training.**  Language changes from In-Service training to Professional Development.
* **Article 9.2.5 - Accumulated Vacation Leave.**   Vacation may now be used in increments of not less than one (1) hour. Current contract mandates that it be used in increments not less than four (4) hours.
* **Article 10.13 - Staff Development Leave.**  Language change to allow members to apply for SDL during their sixth year, following past practice.
* **Article 14.7 - Travel and Conference Funds**.  Reduced the annual amount allocated by the district from $50,000 to $40,000 annually.  Increased the amount an employee may receive yearly from $1,000 to $1,500 and we maintained all carry-forward.

The ratification vote will be held online next Tuesday, April 21 beginning at 1 p.m. through noon on Friday, April 24.  *Watch your email for more information.*

We have also reached a MOU regarding the use of temporary employees with the goal to provide ACE members more opportunities to work out of class.  An 18-month trial period has been set for this MOU and may only be continued by mutual agreement.

* If a hiring manager wishes to use a temporary employee without announcing a Working Out of Class opportunity to the ACE membership, the current ACE agreement of a 90-day limit on use of a temporary employee while recruiting a vacancy still applies.
* If a hiring manager chooses to use announce a Working Out of Class opportunity:
  + And an ACE member is selected for the position, Article 8.9 of the ACE Agreement, *Working Out of Class*, applies.
  + And an ACE member is NOT selected for the position; the hiring manager has up to 150 days to use a temporary employee while recruiting to fill the vacancy.
    - The district has up to 10 months if proceeding with a review of the position (classification review) or department (reorganization) that may result in changes affecting the position.
    - Failure to notify ACE within 75 days of intent to reclassify or reorganize shall convert the time limit to 165 days from the date of hire of the temporary employee while recruiting to fill the vacancy.

There are still have some outstanding articles to negotiate with the district, including a possible classification study, holidays, reorganizations, the layoff process and a few others, but we did not want to hold up your COLA while we worked on those.  If our members ratify the proposed tentative agreement next week, it will go to the May Board of Trustees meeting for approval and you will see the retroactive and additional pay in your June paycheck.

As always, any questions, comments or concerns, please give me a call (x6187) or drop me a line (whitechris@fhda.edu).    
  
On behalf of the entire negotiations team, we thank you for your support and look forward to answering your questions next Tuesday.  
  
Chris White  
Chair of Negotiations, ACE  
  
Members:  
David Gillette - CS  
Cathleen Monsell - DA  
Stephanie Pham - DA  
Al Ruffinelli - FH  
Blanche Monary - President, ACE  
Bradley Booth - ACE Attorney, Chief Negotiator