

BTA Retirement Committee Report March 20, 2014

Two years ago I wrote the following: **“Since the last retirement report in February, things have hardly been quiet. The effects of the economy that have been threatening us for several years, in conjunction with the wholly ill-advised and unsustainable 2% tax cap, have brought us to the edge of a cliff.”**

Even though the economy certainly shows signs of improvement, we are not yet seeing many meaningful changes that affect us in a positive manner. Money is still tight for the tax payers, we have not had raises that come close to keeping up with inflation, and we are once again facing dramatic cuts to our District’s budget this next year. The **good** news is that TRS pension costs are going up **LESS** this year than they have in the past. Pension costs went up a bit over 4% last year and this year, are going up only ½%. That represents a relative savings right there. And this is probably the last year pension costs will continue to increase. I will know in November for sure, but next year we think the employer contribution rate (ECR) will drop, saving the District money to be used for retaining positions.

Please remember that the ECR is a fluctuating number. In the 1990’s the average was 5.66%. In the 2000’s the average was 4.37%. And thus far in the 2010’s, the average is around 9%. So really in the past 20+ years, the pension rates have been fairly modest.

Some Reminders: All those desiring to retire in June 2014 who do not require the retirement award to be paid by a certain time (such as Tier 1”B”, Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 members) may still notify the district at any point **prior to the end of the school year**. It is important to also notify the District of your impending retirement prior to the end of the school year to be eligible for the Retirement Award (contact me if you have any questions about this).

May 1, 2014: **Date to advise the administration** of your **retirement** following the 2014-15 school year **in order to receive the retirement award in your paychecks** during your last year of teaching (September to June).

All members retiring this year must submit a retirement application to TRS no more than 90 days and **no later than the day before retirement (must be postmarked)** to be eligible for benefits to begin as soon as possible following a retirement effective July 1.

Any retirement questions, please call Kevin J. Crowley at 241-6178 or E-mail at kcrowley0245@bcSDNY.org. You may also feel free to call me at home at (203) 454-9545.