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MANDATES...

Fund Them

OR

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... education for today and tomorrow

**FARMINGDALE
LOBBY
COMMITTEE**

**LEGISLATIVE
PROPOSALS**

2010 - 2011



Farmingdale Public Schools

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The Farmingdale Lobby Committee will keep the public and the media informed of the impact that the state legislative, administrative and federal programs will have on the Farmingdale School District and its taxpayers. We will vigorously pursue increases in Federal and State Aid to Education to support Farmingdale School District programs.

UNFREEZE FOUNDATION AND HIGH TAX AIDS

The state must recognize regional cost differences within the state to assure that dollars allocated to Long Island schools have the same buying power as dollars allocated to schools in other regions of the state.

TAX REFUNDS ARE NOT OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The legislature must protect school districts from responsibility for the tax refunds that result from certioraris. These changes in assessment are not the responsibility of the local school district and should not be part of the school district budget.

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Allow district's the opportunity to establish a TRS Reserve and support a minimum contribution to the retirement system to smooth out spiking rates.

MTA PAYROLL TAX

Continue to support a state budget that includes a full reimbursement to districts for the MTA Payroll Tax.



UNFUNDED MANDATES

The legislature should require the careful research and analysis of proposed mandates involving public schools in order to identify potential cost implications. If additional costs will be incurred as a result of new mandates, these costs should be fully funded through additional state support.

- ◆ The Farmingdale School District is required to pay a Metropolitan Transit Authority payroll tax for all employees even though they do not use the railroad to commute to work.
Cost to District: \$275,000
- ◆ Requiring schools to provide graphing calculators to all high school math students.
Cost to District: \$210,000
- ◆ Increased internal auditor requirements

Claims Auditor	\$ 8,000
Internal Auditor	50,000
Independent Auditor	55,000
Actuarial Study for GASB 45	18,000

Cost to District: \$131,000
- ◆ Academic intervention service requirement
Cost to District: \$100,000
- ◆ NCLB testing requirements (Grades 3-8)
Cost to District: \$50,000
- ◆ Period by period attendance requirement
Cost to District: \$40,000

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The state must assure that the funding of the charter schools does not adversely impact the funding of public schools and that charter schools are held to the same financial audits and high academic standards as public schools.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

EBALR

School districts should be allowed the flexibility to use the Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR) to offset mid-year cuts in aid and state aid reductions.

SUPPORT STUDENTS AT RISK

State standards, putting their graduation in jeopardy. Integrated co-teaching programs will be necessary to provide these students with access to general education classrooms so that they will reach the new standards. It is important that the aid that is tied to special education students remain uncapped so that the school district is not limited in its ability to meet the needs of students. In addition, the aid provided for special education students who are placed in private and BOCES programs must be maintained.

TEACHER CENTER

Maintain the funding for Teacher Center Programs that provide teacher mentoring and staff development. These training opportunities are focused on student learning.

WICKS LAW EXEMPTION

School construction projects should be exempt from the Wicks Law as they are for the New York City Public Schools. Eliminating the required bidding process for each trade will save school districts time and will reduce project costs. Millions of dollars are added to construction costs as a result of this Law.