

Levittown Council of PTAs
General Membership Meeting
March 21st, 2013 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm. Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance taken and quorum established.

Recording Secretary: Some question as to whether everyone received the minutes. Decision was made to wait for next meeting to approve February's minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Report attached. The accounts were audited tonight by Dawn Nocella and all was found to be in order.

Q: Will we still be asking for the \$20 dues deposit even though the dues amounts have changed this year?

A: Yes. If we don't collect it, the budget line for dues this year will be off. The balance due next year will reflect the \$20 deposit credit, as always.

Superintendents Report: Dr. Grossane stated that the grade 3-8 testing schedule is now available. ELA and Math state tests are required as we follow NYS curriculum. Parents cannot ask that students "opt out" of testing. Child can refuse to take the test, but they still must sit in class during the test. We are not obligated to provide alternate instruction, nor will we. If parents keep them home, then they must sit for the makeup. If they don't take the test, they will likely be placed in AIS for the following year, as any test not taken is recorded as "999" which says the student wasn't tested and does not reflect an objection to the test itself. If there is less than 95% participation in the tests then a school is put "Under Review". You can't make Adequate Yearly Progress "AYP". 2 years under review and then under the new assessments, the principal, or superintendent or BOE needs to be removed. If you would like to protest ethically to over-testing, draft a letter to the NYS Education Dept or the NYS Government.

Other districts have reported 30-40% drop in scores when they switched to Common Core. It would not be unusual to see this happen here. The state has decided that this is a Criterion Reference Test instead of a Norm Reference Test. Norm Reference test is scored on a bell curve. The Criterion Reference Test will see how everyone does and then decide what passing is.

We hope to have the scores by August.

Q: Students in 8th grade taking Earth Science or Integrated Algebra, will they still be required to take the 8th grade assessment, even though they are not being taught the common core?

A: Yes. It is assumed that if they are capable to handling the 9th grade curriculum in 8th grade, then they should be fine on the 8th grade assessment. If they do poorly, they will receive AIS like any other student.

President's Report: Welcomed guests Mr. Lipani, Ms. Rogers and BOE VP Peter Porazzo Report attached

1st VP: No report

2nd VP: No report

Corresponding Secretary: A sympathy card was sent to Lisa Vanderburg on the passing of her father.

Historian: No report

Council Budget: Original report attached. Report was discussed. Report with the discussed and agreed upon corrections will be made available when complete.

Q: Does the reworking of Work Study in the middle schools mean going to an 8 period day? **A:** No. Day1 would be ELA double period and Day 2 would be Math double period in place of work study.

Q: Is enrollment increasing that would affect any of these items? **A:** No

Recommended that the specifics about FTE's be removed from the report as it is a contractual issue. This was agreed to.

Dr. Grossane addressed the suggestion that security measures be improved and stated that this is already being done. There is planning in the budget already to upgrade security.

Security at LMEC in the evenings was addressed. There is only someone on duty until 3pm. There have never been locked front doors at LMEC. Changes to these security issues at LMEC are being looked into.

Motion: Esta Lachow moves that the unit accepts the report as corrected. 2nd-Angela List. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker Mr. Lipani gave a presentation on the 2% Tax Cap and the implications of testing on our students. Presentation attached.

Standing Committee Reports-

Arts In Education: No report

Elementary Curriculum: Report attached

Health, Safety & Environment: No report

Secondary Curriculum: Report attached

Procedures: No report

SEPTA: No report

Liaison Reports-

Dollars for Scholars: Report attached

Food Service: Report attached

LEADD: Report attached

Transportation: Report attached

Honorary Life Dinner Dance: 3 bids for flowers for honorees were presented. Motion: Esta Lachow made a motion that we use Petite 2 for flowers. 2nd –Dawn Nocella Motion carried.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned: 10:10pm

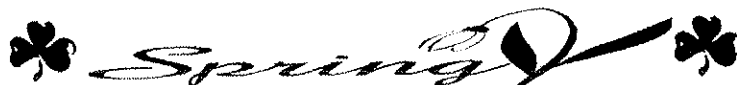
Minutes prepared by Mary Rickard

Levittown Council of PTAs
General Membership Meeting Agenda
March 21st, 2013

**Please be advised that these meetings are being recorded.
If you wish to address council, please step up to the microphone to assure you can be heard.*

- I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum
- III. Approval of Minutes- Recording Secretary
- IV. Treasurers' Report- Reconciliation
- V. Superintendent Report - Dr. Grossane
- VI. Executive Committee Reports
 - A. President Report
 - B. 1st VP Report
 - C. 2nd VP Report
 - D. Corresponding Secretary
 - E. Historian Report
- VII. Council Budget Committee Report**
- VIII. Guest Speaker- Mr. Lipani**
- IX. Standing Committee Reports
 - A. Arts in Education
 - B. Elementary Curriculum
 - C. Health, Safety and Environment
 - D. Secondary Curriculum
 - E. Procedures
- X. SEPTA Report
- XI. Liaison Reports
 - A. Dollars for Scholars
 - B. Food Service
 - C. LEADD
 - D. Transportation
- XII. Special Committee Reports
 - A. Honorary Life -Senior Award Dinner Dance
 - B. Bylaws
- XIII. Old Business-
- XIV. New Business -
- XV. Adjournment

Switch all cellular devices to vibrate-sign off and tune in; we have a lot to talk about.



Important Dates to Remember

- 03/22/13 **Money for Senior Awards Dinner Dance Due**
- 03/25/13 Spring Recess (return on 4/1/13)
- 04/01/13 ***President/Superintendent Mtg. 9:30AM LMEC***
- 04/02/13 Elementary Curriculum 9:30AM LMEC
- 04/03/13 Board of Education Planning Session #3 7:30PM LMEC: ***Council Budget Committee Presentation***
- 04/05/13 Secondary Curriculum 9:30AM LMEC
- 04/07/13 **LEADD Walk 10:30AM and Fair 11:00AM**
- 04/10/13 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7:30PM LMEC
- 04/12/13 Secondary School Third Quarter Ends
- 04/17/13 Board of Education Planning Session #4- BOE adopts budget
- 04/18/13 **Levittown Council of PTAs Meeting 7:30PM LMEC**
- 04/24/13 Pending BOE meeting
- 04/25/13 PTA Council Senior Award Dinner 6:00PM Crest Hollow

Levittown Council of PTAs
Proposed Budget
2012 - 2013

General Fund:	Proposed 2011/2012	Actual 2011/2012	Proposed 2012/2013	Actual to Date 2012/2013
Starting Balance	\$8,898.66	\$8,898.66	\$8,949.23	\$8,949.23
INCOME				
Membership Dues	\$1,300.00	\$1,377.60	\$1,200.00	\$1,039.60
Other	\$0.00		\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,198.66	\$10,276.26	\$10,149.23	\$9,988.83
EXPENSES				
Administrative Functions	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$28.94
AIDS Awareness	\$6.10	\$0.00	\$6.10	
Banking Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$8.00
BOE Recognition	\$100.00	\$99.91	\$100.00	\$99.92
Carry Over	\$6,142.56	\$0.00	\$5,713.13	
Convention	\$1,000.00	\$693.45	\$1,400.00	\$497.41
Get a Voice	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Health & Safety	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
Historian	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
In House Training	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	
Installation	\$50.00	\$37.80	\$50.00	
Miscellaneous	\$200.00	\$58.00	\$200.00	
Office Supplies	\$150.00	\$67.87	\$150.00	\$9.99
Pres/Prin Dinner	\$300.00	\$240.00	\$300.00	\$240.00
Publications	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Workshops/Conferences	\$500.00	\$130.00	\$500.00	\$130.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,198.66	\$1,327.03	\$10,149.23	\$1,014.26
SR AWARD FUND:				
Starting Balance	\$9,224.77	\$9,224.77	\$11,961.62	\$11,961.62
INCOME				
Dinner Dance Income	\$25,000.00	\$30,770.00	\$25,000.00	\$8.50
Other Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,224.77	\$39,994.77	\$36,961.62	\$12,670.12
EXPENSES				
Carry Over	\$8,000.00		\$8,500.00	
Banking Supplies	\$100.00	\$48.50	\$100.00	\$4.00
Dinner Dance Expenses	\$24,024.77	\$23,968.05	\$24,311.62	\$500.00
PTA Senior Awards	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Senior Award Supplies	\$50.00	\$16.60	\$50.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,174.77	\$28,033.15	\$36,961.62	\$504.00
**9/20/12-Scholarship Changed to Senior Award				

Levittown Council of PTAs
Treasurer Report

FEBRUARY 15, 2013 TO MARCH 21, 2013

General Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:		\$9,001.57
Expenses:		
Banking Expense	2.00	
Workshops	25.00	
Total Expenses:	\$27.00	
Income:		
Total Income:	\$0.00	
Closing Checkbook Balance:		\$8,974.57

Senior Award Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:		\$12,166.12
Expenses:		
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	
Income:		
Total Income:	\$0.00	
Closing Checkbook Balance:		\$12,166.12

Levittown Council of PTAs Presidents' Report

Good Evening, Happy Spring Everybody!

Welcome Dr. Grossane and Board of Education members and our guest speaker this evening Mr. Lipani. */Ms Rogers*

Thank you to East Broadway for hosting this evening. Gardiners Ave. will be our host unit next month.

This has been a busy month. We started this month with Legislation Meetings hosted by Nassau Region, NYS PTA and even the Superintendents of Nassau County. The Board has been busy with budget presentations from department chairs, committees as well as the superintendents'. April 3rd, the Council Budget committee is scheduled to present our recommendations to the Board of Education and April 17th is the hearing for the BOE to adopt the budget (I hope you will attend). Don't forget to call Mark Flower's office to make arrangements for district to come to your next PTA meeting to discuss the proposed budget. This week started with NYS PTA's Lobby Day and we end it with a presentation from Mr. Lipani discussing testing, 2% tax caps and where we can go from here.

The community recognition dinner was a great time to pause and say thank you to all of the people involved in PTA and volunteer for our children. Please remember to thank your volunteers.

These months are sure to be crazy. By now you have all announced your proposed slates for next year, some may have already had elections, many of you are hosting your big fund raising event of the year; 5th grade activities; 8th grade activities; junior and senior prom; graduation all seem to fill our plates. Don't put off your PTA duties/issues till they become overwhelming. Get the lists of your new officers to Council as soon as you have the information, make sure treasury reports are up to date so you don't have to sweat the summer doing taxes, present your procedure and bylaw changes to your membership as they are updated. And always keep trainings in the forefront. Nassau Region roundtable will be in June. Have the new officers attend. This month you will receive a survey from us at council regarding your interests in training session's right here at LMEC. Please fill out the survey and send it back so we can set the dates for them before we break for the summer. Council has been asked this year to have our schedule of PTA/PTSA dates for all of the units to district. Please look over the calendar for the coming school year we will sit down and hash this out together at our next meeting.

Please be reminded that our meetings are recorded. Please use the microphone when addressing council, be respectful of others when they do speak, we might not always agree, but we can be kind. Please put your phones to vibrate.

Please keep the line of communication open. Feel free to contact any one of us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help in any way we can.

And as always on behalf of the Levittown Council of PTAs and myself, I want to thank you all for "All" that you do for our children.

Respectfully submitted by: Patricia Genco 3/21/13

PTA COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE

As a committee we feel we are limited to the recommendation we can make due to the 2% cap, with that said we have looked at several different area's in which our schools felt strongly about.

1. Security was the top priority on everyone's list, after receiving our answers to the Security questions we asked, it is this committee's recommendation that the District continue to look into Security for all schools in our district, we feel they are headed in the right direction to provide security and found a way to pay for it.

2. Better use of Work Study Period in Middle School: We would like to recommend that consideration be given to extend the Math & English class time by using the work study time period. In sixth grade the students already have a double period of English and get to accomplish a much firmer foundation in English. Data shows that in Grade 6 with the current double period of English our students score in the range of 72 to 78% on their ELA's. The following year for grades 7 & 8 with only one period of English, scores plummet to a range of 57 to 67%. At the High School level students who need assistance in Math are placed in double period Math classes, known as Math with a lab. If we enact this program at the Middle School level it should build a stronger foundation for success in high school.

In this time of higher standards due to the implementation of Common Core Standards, the committee feels that our students would be better served by getting to stay on task longer with these adjustments to their schedule. It would give support to students who score in the low 3's on state assessments that no longer qualify, as we only do support services for 1 and 2's now. The teachers would be able go deeper into the content of the lessons and the new programs being piloted by district call for more than 40 minutes of instruction to implement the lesson. All students that are no scheduled for Honors classes would be scheduled for the additional time.

Students who currently are in Honors or Accelerated programs that facilitate the use of their work study period to have actual instruction (i.e.: Earth Science) will continue to follow that course of scheduling.

The district is also looking into this recommendation; a presentation on this topic was given on March 13 by Asst. Superintendent Debbie Rifkin, accompanied by both current Principals of our Middle School and the Curriculum Chair people for English and Math. In the audience were several subject teachers who whole heartily support this change. Several other districts are currently doing this model already, Mineola, Oceanside, Malverne, Long Beach and South Shore. Bethpage and Wantagh are proposing similar models this year.

That instructional staff contracts call for 5 periods of instruction, 2 prep periods, lunch and 1 duty period, most instructional staff fulfill this contractual period by doing the work study. At this time they are not required to teach only to supervise students.

To implement the double period of math or English an additional two to three instructional teachers would have to be placed; this number is for both schools total (Salk needs 1.7 FTE and Wisdom 1.1 FTE = 2.8 FTE's). The district has figured these numbers for next year with the current predicted enrollment. The cost is estimated to be \$100,000.00 per teacher including benefits. The district also stated that in most cases the same teacher would be in place to teach the class through both periods. This would give a level of consistency to the instruction.

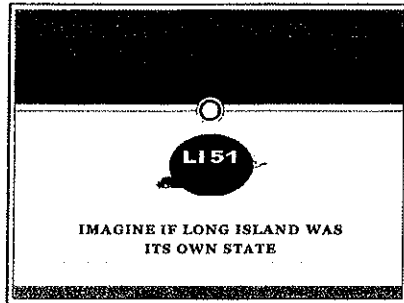
4. Outside School District -- It is this committee's recommendation that we charge the following: We also recommend that the district charge out of school districts that use our facility to gas their busses, a service fee to help cover cost if machines break down.

5. We are pleased to see the district is looking into more greener and energy saving resources. We would like to see some of the energy proficiency specialists recommendations initiated. We realize that there would be some costs now, but these costs would enable the district to save funds in the long run.

In conclusion we feel that enough has been already cut from the students and ask that the district look into other ways to save the district money without any effect to the children. We would like to thank Dr. Grossane and the BOE for listening to our recommendations and for all the hard work they do on behalf of our children.

Thank you,

Maria Xenios, Laura Brown, Margaret, Linda, Donna Waikus, Lisa, Peter, Greg Bodkin, Hector Santiago.



Something to Think About...

- If Long Island were a state...we would be ranked #1 in the nation in High School Completion Rate:
1. Long Island 2. Wisconsin 3. Vermont 4. N. Dakota/Minnesota 5. Iowa
- If Long Island were a state...we would be ranked #1 in the nation in Intel Semifinalists
- 54 Long Island high schools ranked in the top 7% of high schools in the nation by *The Washington Post*

Something to Think About...

- 21 Long Island high schools rank among the Top 300 Best Schools in America
- 50% of Long Island graduates earn a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, compared to 27% for the rest of New York State
- US News and World Reports ranked both Division Avenue and MacArthur HS in the top 1000 nationally

THE EFFECT OF THE 2% TAX CAP

TAX LEVY CAP FACTS

- Took effect in 2012. Remains in effect until June 15, 2016. (Date tied to law regulating rent control.)
- Maximum tax levy increase of previous year's tax levy with a few exceptions. Allowable exemptions in the law can also increase the maximum tax levy cap
- Example: If the cost of living goes up 1.4%, then the tax levy can only increase by 1.4%.
- The 5 big cities are exempt from the law.
NYC/Buffalo/Rochester/Syracuse/Yonkers

TAX LEVY CAP FACTS - continued

- Voter approval is still needed on school budgets. If the budget is defeated twice, the district may not increase the tax levy from the previous year.
- Max Cap Levy due to exemptions, this year for Levittown is 3.54% which would just need a simple majority to pass.
- With a 60% voter approval, the 2% cap can be increased.
- State aid may not exceed 4% even in good economic times when the state is flush.

TAX CAP COMPARISON NY vs. MA			
CAP FUNCTIONS		CAP FUNCTIONS	
Filled Void/Vol Vote	2.0% Increase	0.0% Increase	
Majority Override (50.1%)	Unlimited Increase	2.0% Increase	
Supermajority override (80.1%)	Raise Needed	Unlimited Increase	
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS			
10 Year Enrollment Trend	-0.1%	-0.6%	
State Aid History	CPI +0.5%/Year	CPI Only	
State Economic Growth	Massachusetts Middle	Uncharted	
STUDENT CONDITIONS			
Students in Poverty	70%	40%	

HOW STUDENTS WILL BE HURT
<p>While called a 2% tax cap, without voter approval it is a 0% tax cap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many more millions will have to be cut? More incentive for people to vote "No"
<p>Most costs beyond local control such as pension contributions (with a minor exception) and health care costs fall under the 2% tax cap.</p>
<p>Increased school enrollments must fall under the cap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. If 2 or 3 more 4th graders move into district and class size is maxed, will district be able to add a new class?

HOW STUDENTS WILL BE HURT - continued
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can any new programs be implemented? Who pays when state mandates new programs?
<p>(e.g. bullying prevention, APPR)</p>

HOW STUDENTS WILL BE HURT - continued

- Will be in-fighting within districts when programs are eliminated.
 - Dad's club argues to cut art. Music parents demand cuts in sports.
- Class sizes increase, electives will be cut, extra curricula activities will be harmed, specialized programs will be in jeopardy, and school closings occur.
 - Will there be class sizes up to 40 in a class?
 - What happens to Intel programs, A.P and remedial classes?

QUESTIONS WE MUST START ASKING

- What happens when inflation goes up 3, 4, or 5%?
- Will there be a nurse in each school?
- If employee compensation packages are decimated, what effect will that have on morale?
- With many cutbacks, how will test scores improve?
- What impact and what help is there for students if test scores go down?
- If dozens of employees are cut, are others trained to provide specialized programs?

QUESTIONS WE MUST START ASKING Continued

- If tragedies occur, will there be support staff (psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors) to help students?
- If after school activities are curtailed, what will the kids be doing?
- What effect will these devastating cuts have on college admission?
- How many scholarship opportunities will be lost?

**The Most Objectionable Piece of the
2% Tax Cap Law is that it:**

1. Takes away local control.
2. Prevents your elected officials, your neighbors, whom you trusted with your vote, from proposing a budget they believe meets the needs of your community.
3. Assumes Albany knows better what your community needs and wishes are. Albany ties your hands and those of your elected officials!
4. Albany now says that 41% is better than 59%

How It Has Affected Levittown...

What has Levittown Lost So Far?

Gifted and Talented Program
 Computer Literacy in 6th Grade
 World Language in 6th Grade
 Librarians in Elementary Schools
 Many Elective Classes in HS (eg. Economics, Business,)
 Athletic Teams and Assistant Coaches
 Supervision for Athletic Events
 Athletic Teams Cut
 LEAD Teachers in Elementary Schools
 Chair people
 108 Teachers

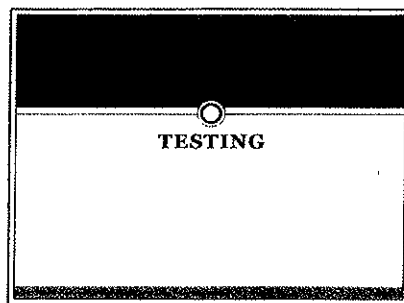
**How Taxes Increase Beyond The Anticipated
Tax Increase**

SUNSHINE, NEW YORK HAS 1000 HOMES

TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED IN PROPERTY TAXES TO OPERATE SCHOOLS =
\$10,000,000

HOMES REASSESSED	HOMES NOT REASSESSED
100 HOMES TAXES CUT 1% LOSS OF \$100K	900 HOMES NOT REASSESSED
50 BUSINESSES HAVE TAXES CUT 40% LOSS OF \$200K	TO RAISE \$10,000,000 these houses must be assessed an additional \$1,000,000
TOTAL LOSS = \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000/900 HOUSES = \$1,111 TAX INCREASE PER HOME

STATE AID	
LEVITTOWN	
• 2008-2009:	52,351,030
• 2009-2010:	48,938,245
• 2010-2011:	48,376,122
• 2011-2012:	48,969,435
• 2012-2013:	48,041,062
• CUMULATIVE LOSS:	-15,079,256



History of student tests

Since the beginning of public schooling, educators have used some type of test or assessment to measure student skills and knowledge.

- Assessments are "yardsticks" to compare students and/or document student progress.
- Educators and schools use assessments and test scores in a variety of ways.

The current testing system in NYS

New York state measures students' learning from year to year in all public schools:

- Federal No Child Left Behind/Elementary and Secondary Education Act requirements
- NYS Regents requirements
- Local requirements are added on to the mandated testing system

NYSUT estimates the average student takes a minimum of 74 hours or 4,440 minutes of standardized tests through grades 3-12.

Changes on the horizon

- The state is phasing in common core student learning standards, and assessments aligned to the standards.
- SED intends to pilot computer-based testing in 2014 and statewide administration in 2015.

NYS requires standardized testing – pros and cons

Assessment	Pros	Cons
Standardized Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help align curriculum and classroom instruction to state standards • Provide comparative data between schools and districts and can reveal achievement gaps between and among students in different groups • Help to evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not tell us all we need to know about student learning • Do not adequately measure critical thinking skills or creative ability • Administered at grade level, testing a level of proficiency that the student may not have yet acquired

Over-emphasizing standardized tests impacts schools and children

- Over reliance – using a single test designed for a specific purpose in multiple ways.
- Misuse of data – schools and students can be improperly labeled as failing.
- Time -- test prep and administration take time away from instruction.
- Test fatigue -- young children and those with special needs exhibit signs of test burn-out.
- Financial cost -- already limited resources are diverted to testing.

Unintended Consequences

- Narrowing of the curriculum – art, music, languages, electives are squeezed out.
- Creates pressure to teach to the test – drill and kill.
- High-stakes nature (promotion, graduation, school labeled as failing) leads to anxiety for students and teachers.

We spend 90% of the school year preparing students for 6 days of testing!

Educators Believe...

- Educators support good assessments that fairly measure what students know. Standardized tests are not inherently bad when used for what they are designed for.
- Educators support the use of multiple measures of student performance beyond a single test score.
- Educators believe SED must lessen the focus on the use of the current standardized tests and place greater emphasis on other measures of student learning, such as authentic assessments.

Cost of Testing for Levittown

- **Cost of Testing for 2012-2013 School Year**
377,921.00
- **Total School Days Used for Administration of Tests**
ELA, Math, Science (3-8) ---8 days
- **NWEA**
Each student loses 2-4 hours of instruction 3 times a yr.
- **SLO's**
2 days
- **Days Lost in Computer Lab Due to Testing NWEA**
45 days for the year to test all students grades 4-6

What Can You Do?

As residents of the Levittown Community, your community urgently needs your help.

Please Contact:

Community Relations Committee
The Honorable Andrew J. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NY State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12244
518.474.8444

State Senator Krupa Korman
District Office: 385 Stewart Ave. Suite 140
Queens, NY 11354-1400
Phone: 718-776-7764

Assemblyman Thomas M. Korman
District Office:
25 Montgomery Village
Queens, NY 11354
Phone: 718-776-7764
Fax: 718-776-7764

Talking Points

UNFUNDED MANDATES:

- New York State continues to implement unfunded mandates and has mandated the Common Core Curriculum, which requires extensive teacher training (not funded). Further, is chronic testing of our children necessary? Who pays for this?

INEQUITY OF FUNDS TO LONG ISLAND:

- This does not seem equal when for every \$1.00 we send to New York State we only receive back \$.23 with \$.77 being sent to other districts off of Long Island. Our children in Levittown are year after year losing out.

TAX CAP:

- With the implementation of the tax cap, ask your Governor, at what cost to public education? How many programs and services will be lost?

The Reality of Long Island

Long Island is perceived as being uniformly affluent by many who influence state policy, however, the reality differs significantly from this perception. An examination of the facts indicates that while our schools continue to outperform the rest of the state, economic and demographic conditions do not match perceptions.

- Long Island students outperform their peers from across the rest of the state on every assessment (including the ELA and math assessments as well as Regents examinations) administered by the State Education Department (SED).
- Long Island schools eliminated 1,820 positions between 2010-11 and 2011-12, resulting in 932 staff members being laid off.
- Long Island schools eliminated another 1,233 positions between 2011-12 and 2012-13, resulting in an additional 682 staff members being laid off.
- Over 40% of the students on Long Island are enrolled in school districts that fall below the state wealth average (41.7%). Only 16% are enrolled in the wealthiest school districts (CWR > 2.0).
- Due to higher regional costs, \$1 purchases only \$.65 worth of goods and services on Long Island according to the SED cost index.
- Long Island's income wealth per pupil has dropped dramatically since 1999-2000, from nearly 40% to just 13% above the state average.
- New York State funds only \$.23 of every \$1 spent on Long Island education (23.1%).
- Long Islanders fund educational services across the state. A December 2011 Rockefeller Institute study found that the "downstate suburbs," including Long Island, provide 27.4% of New York State receipts, yet only 17.7% of state expenditures are directed to the region.
- Long Island schools enroll 17% of the state's students yet receive only 12% of school state aid.
- If every penny of aid allocated to the wealthiest Long Island school districts was redistributed to the rest of the state, it would result in just a \$39 per pupil increase. These school districts fund nearly 90% of their budgets with local property taxes.
- Over 20% of students on Long Island qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch according to federal guidelines.
- Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, the percentage of low-wealth school districts with an average class size over 25 grew from 15% to 32% at the elementary school level, 48% to 68% at the middle school level, and 40% to 60% at the high school level.
- Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, the percentage of mid-wealth school districts with an average class size over 25 grew from 3% to 13% at the elementary school level, 32% to 47% at the middle school level, and remained unchanged at the high school level (48%).
- Between 2010-11 and 2011-12, one-third of low-wealth school districts significantly (10%+) reduced career and technical education (CTE) opportunities for students, while one-fifth of these school districts made similar cuts to alternative education programs. Another 18% of these districts made significant cuts to CTE programs between 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- Long Island schools eliminated 235 interscholastic athletic teams between 2010-11 and 2011-12.
- In the typical Suffolk County school district (CWR 1.25, Enrollment 3,900, Budget \$81M), projected 2013-14 rate increases for health insurance, ERS and TRS alone, will drive a budget increase of nearly 4% and a tax levy increase of 5%.

March 21, 2013 PTA Council Reports from Angela List

Elementary Curriculum

We met on Thursday February 28th-Debbie Rifkin introduced to the committee – Commerce Plaza- it is a program for 5th graders hosted by YES Community Counseling Center on Center Lane right here in Levittown (Old YOM building next to Wisdom Lane). District would like to bring to all 5th grade students. Train one teacher and then turn-key training.

Commerce Plaza is a simulated business community that promotes an understanding of the world of business and its economics. Students learn the basic principles of economics during a 6-week prep period, using Commerce Plaza Curriculum, which is aligned to Common Core Curriculum in ELA and Math. It is a full day on-site field trip in which students act as retail operators, producers of services-banker, doctor, etc. which integrate lessons learned from the 6-week curriculum.

The program has been in place since May 2000, initially funded by NYS Dept. Ed through its school to work initiative, current funded through corporate sponsors and through fees collected from the school districts, per student. Current Sponsors include Capital One Bank, Hofstra University, North Shore LIJ, United Way of Long Island and Safe Kids, NY.

Engageny.org has posted a parent Tool Kit for understanding common core state standards for k-5 in both ELA and Math. It can be found on the school district website under the Instruction Department. It is a great website with lots of links to help parents get a better understanding of what the new standards are.

Journeys Pilot Program-

The district has been piloting a new ELA program, one grade per elementary building. Abbey-K, Lee Rd. – 1, Gardiners – 2, Summit – 3, Northside – 4, E. Broadway – 5. Debbie Rifkin is still not comfortable recommending the program for all students next year, although the program is going well according to the teachers who are using it this year, she wants to wait until the students take the state assessments and see how well the program is aligned with the assessment.

Students in grade 2 should be using a cursive workbook. Each teacher is required to teach each letter, they do not go in great depth and it is up to the teacher discretion after 3rd grade as far as what more they teach.

Our Next meeting is April 5th

Secondary Curriculum

Mr. Kevin McDermott – Science Curriculum Associate spoke at our meeting. Spoke about the middle Accelerated/Honors Recommendation Process at the Middle School Level.

Occurs during 6th grade, based on ELA State Exam Scores, Math State Exam Scores, Average at the end of the 3rd quarter, 6th grade teacher recommendation.

Looked at the science course offering flow chart

Beginning next year, we will have double period Chemistry class (every day double period, unlike now every other day is double period). Will continue with every other day lab, but the alternating day will be for extra help, just like the math double period class currently in place.

Spoke about Next Generation Science Standards

They are in draft form. When they are complete, then NYS will have to decide whether to adopt. Not for some time, maybe not even next year.

Course Catalog changes for 2013/2014

Goal was to rename to make more current/challenging or to make the class sound more interesting.

Art-Yearbook class is changing to a club, taking out of course catalog.

Independent study in art-name change to Art Portfolio

Independent study in photography-name change to Photography 3

Combine Graphics Design 3 and 3D-new name Graphics Design 2

Business – No Keyboarding or Wall Street

Computer Applications will include keyboarding

Marketing Blitz – name change to Sports/Entertainment Marketing

New Class-Personal money management-includes Wall Street

Web 2-Available for College Credit

FACS – Fashion separated into 2-Fashion Illustration and Fashion Design

Interior Design separated into 2-Interior Design and Computer Architecture

Creative Foods – name change to Culinary Arts

Adolescent Psychology-class eliminated

New Class-Child Development 2

Science – Environmental Science – class eliminated

Science Research – made into Science Research 1 & 2

Technology Research – new class added to alternate days with science research

World Language – Italian 3 & Spanish 3 change to Honors

Eliminate French 1 and Italian 1-classes never ran

Italian 4 & Spanish 4 accelerated -- change to Pre AP-college credit
Eliminate college credit Italian, French & Spanish 5-AP

Math -- Math for Every day life & Practical Applications-eliminating
Advanced Algebra & Trig Applications -- name change to Essentials of Advanced
Algebra & Trig

English -- Eliminated Women in Lit & Origin of Story
Added new class -- Communication & Media Studies
English 10 honors now English 10 Pre AP

Social Studies -- Eliminated American Film/Lit & Ethics
Name change of Global 1 Accelerated to Global 9 Pre-AP

Submitted by: Mary Rickard

remember to give to
Eileen

The "Dollars for Scholars" committee
met on Monday 3-18-13

The President Diane McFarland announced
that she will be stepping down in June.

- There will be \$10,000 in scholarship
given out this year.

Applications are available in
the high school guidance office

Friday April 19th is the deadline
to submit scholarship applications

A Motion was made, seconded and
voted on unanimously

"Not to continue our affiliation
with 'dollars for scholars'"

The unit will become its own

501(c)(3) c
Not for profit organization

Next meeting will be May 13 2013 7pm
small board room

Food Service

The Committee met on March 20th

There were questions at the last meeting regarding the new pre-payment system for lunches. My School Bucks does not allow payment from PayPal like Nutrikids used to. You can use a credit card or E-check on line or send cash or check into school with your child. There were previous complaints about students bringing in checks to school and their lunch account not being updated in a timely manner. There has been an intermittent problem at Wisdom with the computer network where the registers are not talking to each other and updating the student accounts. Alan from Chartwells has been working with the District IT department to get this resolved.

Vending Machines were a hot topic again at this meeting. Vendor has been complaining that the machines are being unplugged or out of order signs have been placed on the machines during after school and evening activities. The vendor states he is tired of losing money because the machines are unplugged. The owner of the company has had words with students in some buildings and has had a physical confrontation in one school. The district and students/parents are not happy with the products in the machines. Schools are not happy with the amount of profit being made and going into the student activities accounts.

It was suggested by Mark Flower that the district get drink machines only and have student government groups buy and sell the product and be responsible for stocking the machines. Chartwells would then have snack machines only in the cafeteria. After much discussion and members stating their feeling about the pros and cons of this idea the food service committee (all but 1 member of the committee) voted to go out for re-bid on the vending machines at the end of the year.

Next year the lunch requirements will continue as is this year and Alan stated that in 2014/15 there will be new requirements for all foods sold in schools, before and during school, up until a half hour after the end of the school day. These regulations will include breakfast, lunch, a la carte offered at lunch, snacks, vending machines, and even fundraisers.

Alan did a presentation for Division Avenue students with Lisa and Mary to show students how much sugar is in the typical beverages they drink on a daily basis (think your drink)-snapple, Gatorade, soda, juice, etc. and instead offered them flavored water. Used pitchers of water and infused it with various fruits, veggies or herbs. It was a great success and other PTA units are encouraged to contact Alan and present this in your own schools.

Next meeting is April 17th

Submitted by:
Angela List

LEADD Report

March 21, 2013

This year's LEADD festivities will take place on Sunday April 7, 2013 at LMEC. The walk will begin at 10:30 AM with the fair immediately to follow in the gymnasium.

This year our Grand Marshals are Alice Anderson and Jackie Levine and or Student Marshals are Katie Darr from Division and Mia Katz from MacArthur.

Entertainment will be provided by Nancy's Dance Factory and The MacArthur Kickline.

Lisa Vanderburg, Committee Chair

**Transportation
E & A Committee Meeting
With Dajuana Reeves-Alston, Transportation Supervisor
March 19, 2013
9:30 A.M – 11:00 A.M.**

Mrs. Dajuana Reeves-Alston would like to have a representative from every school at every meeting.

Connect ED – Transportation is now inline with connect ED. If a bus is going to be more than 20 minutes late, the families of the children on that bus route will be notified. After you receive the call and you wish to get more information please call the school and they will provide you with more details. Mrs. Reeves-Alston asks that you please be patience while they are in transition with this new process. The children are not on the Connect Ed by bus route and this may delay notification.

Code of Conduct – Please remind your children on how to behave on the buses.

Bus Stops – It is imperative that a parent be at the bus stop of all kindergarteners. The child will be taken back to school if there is no parent at the bus stop. Please have your children at the bus stop 5 minute before arrival time. Children are running to the bus stop as the bus is pulling off and this creates a hazardous condition for the children.

Abby Lane – I was asked to find out if the drop off and pick up area at Abby lane could be moved. **Answer:** The bus stop is an administration decision. The bus drivers are aware of the situation and were told to wait until the children are in a safe area before they leave. Not all buses are from the District. Some of the buses are from Bauman.

Travel – All School trips have to return by 1:45. This gives the drivers enough time to start their afternoon route. Transportation will provide quotes to for other bus companies if the trip will go past 1:45.

Distance –

Question: How far does Transportation travel to get a child to a school?

Answer: Our buses travel up to 15 miles, but up to 50 miles for a Special Education student. There are also transfer points. A transfer point is

a central place in the district where many student meet to take a bus to their school.

Sheltering Drills – Transportation conducts Sheltering (Evacuation) drills with Darlene Rhatigan – Health and Safety – Assist. Superintendent.

State Test – A letter is going out to the Middle School and High School Principals to help Coordinate bus schedule for the State test. Notification of bus schedule will be sent via mail.

Next Meeting April 9, 2013 @ 9:30.

LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2013-2014 Calendar

SEPTEMBER (17+1)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2-Labor Day
3-Teacher Orientation/Conference
4-First Day of School
5-6 Rosh Hashanah

DECEMBER (15)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

23-31 - Christmas Recess

MARCH (21)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE (19)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

26 - Last Day of School

OCTOBER (22)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

14 - Columbus Day

JANUARY (19)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

1-3 Christmas Recess
20 - Martin Luther King Day

APRIL (16)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

14-21 Passover/Easter

NOVEMBER (17 +1)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

5 - Supt. Conf. Day
11 - Veterans Day
28-29 - Thanksgiving

FEBRUARY (15)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

17-21- Winter Recess

MAY (21)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

26 - Memorial Day

NOTES:

- This calendar has 182 student attendance days and two teacher conference days.
- *If one (1) or no (0) snow days are used, there will be no school on May 23, 2014.
- If three (3) or more snow days are used, additional school days will be scheduled as necessary.

Approved: Feb. 13, 2013; Revised: Mar. 13, 2013