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## LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

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*Farmingdale Federation of Teachers*

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*Farmingdale Association of*  
*Administrators & Supervisors*

Paul Defendini / Barbara J. Horsley  
*Farmingdale Union Free School District*

*We acknowledge that there are certain basic principles that shall guide the Board of Education in its actions and activities on behalf of our students and our community.*

*The mission of the Farmingdale School District is to educate our students to become independent thinkers and problem solvers.*

*It is our goal to empower each student to meet the challenges of tomorrow's emerging world. The District will provide a safe, nurturing environment in which individual and civic responsibility is fostered, diversity is respected, and all students are enabled to realize their full potential.*

*To that end, we will:*

**ESTABLISH FARMINGDALE AS A  
HIGH ACHIEVING SCHOOL  
DISTRICT AS EVIDENCED BY HIGH  
LEVELS OF STUDENT  
PERFORMANCE IN ALL AREAS  
INCLUDING NEW YORK STATE  
ASSESSMENTS AND REGENTS EXAMS**

*Farmingdale UFSD*

*50 Van Cott Avenue*

*Farmingdale, NY 11735*

*Phone: (516) 752-6666*

*Fax: (516) 752-3025*

*[www.farmingdaleschools.org](http://www.farmingdaleschools.org)*



## FARMINGDALE LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE



2012 - 2013

## LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS



**Farmingdale  
Union Free School District**

## **LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

*The Farmingdale Legislative Action 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.*

### **TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Allow districts the opportunity to establish a TRS Reserve and support a minimum contribution to the retirement system to smooth out spiking rates that impact a school district budget.

### **REGIONAL COST**

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

### **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.

### **EBALR**

School districts should be allowed the flexibility to use the Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR) to offset state aid reductions.

### **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Establish a separate funding mechanism for charter schools. Public schools should not be the source of funds for charter school businesses.

### **NEW BALLOT REQUIREMENTS**

Farmingdale will be required to print a set of 90,000 ballots for each specific election, budget vote and bond vote when we usually have fewer than 5,000 voters.

## **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. Mandates already in place should be re-evaluated and removed if not funded.*

- ◆ Fund or reduce mileage limits (15 to 5 miles) for private school out-of-district transportation
- ◆ Allow consolidation of services under established contracts
- ◆ Limit special education out-of-district transportation when Free Appropriate Education is provided
- ◆ Legislate pension reform/TRS contribution restoration (pre 1998)
- ◆ Establish a 55/25 “exit clause” for Tier 3/4 members who are 55 and older (in 2011) to create “entry” opportunities for new Tier 5 and “6” TRS contributors
- ◆ Cap/control health care premium costs with a statewide plan and limited employer contributions
- ◆ Utilize federal class size standards for students with disabilities and resource rooms while maintaining a continuum of services and supports for students
- ◆ Amend Education Law 3602 that creates entitlement to special education for students parentally placed in private schools, and cap district contributions to out-of-district placements while ensuring that comparable programs are offered by the district of residence
- ◆ Eliminate the requirement that an individual evaluation includes specific assessments as prescribed by Education Law 4402(1)9b(3)(a)
- ◆ Amend the Law (A.5396-A/S.5972-A;Chapter 583) that shifted the burden of proof from parents to schools and that is counter to the 2007 Supreme Court decision

## **THE NEW YORK STATE PROPERTY TAX LEVY CAP:**

- ◆ is a property tax levy cap, **NOT** a “2% cap.”
- ◆ will result in an annual loss of programs and services to students without mandate relief or additional state funding.
- ◆ will eradicate our community’s right to address local needs through local determination. The state will determine how we educate our children by controlling both funding streams: the state aid allocation and the local investment determination.
- ◆ is regressive, at a time when the Governor is calling for economic “growth,” tax caps stifle rather than stimulate local and state economic growth. Business is attracted to and grows where education, public services and educated employee capacity are available.
- ◆ **will not control cost drivers; contractual, state and federally mandated obligations, such as health insurance and employee retirement contributions, will take precedence over curriculum, program and staffing.**
- ◆ limits the school district levy, **NOT** the individual tax bill of resident taxpayers.
- ◆ allows the Board of Educations to present a budget that “overrides” the cap, but will need 60% voter approval.