

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Ralph Vincent Morales, *President*

Kathy Lively, *Vice-President*

### *Trustees*

John E. Capobianco

Suzanne D'Amico

Mario Espinosa

Anthony Giordano

Michael Goldberg

## **SUPERINTENDENT**

John Lorentz

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE**

John E. Capobianco

Suzanne D'Amico

*Board of Education*

Patrick Klocek / Joseph Valentine

*Farmingdale Association of  
Administrators and Supervisors*

Cheryl Iannone

*Farmingdale CSEA Clerical/Custodian*

Kenneth M. Ulric

*Farmingdale Community Summit  
Friends of the Farmingdale Public Library*

James Hughes

*Farmingdale Federation of Teachers*

George Pieri

*Farmingdale PTA*

Laura Ulric

*Farmingdale Library Board*

Paul Defendini

*Farmingdale Public Schools*

*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**

**Farmingdale UFSD**

**50 Van Cott Avenue**

**Farmingdale, NY 11735**

**Phone: 516-434-5120**

**Fax: 516-756-6893**

# **FARMINGDALE LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE**



**2017—2018  
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.***

### **PREDICTABLE STATE AID FORMULA**

The Farmingdale Legislative Action Committee will continue to pursue a fair and equitable distribution of state revenues utilizing a non-political commission to develop a transparent, equitable and predictable state aid formula.

#### **A.P.P.R.**

- ◆ Use of student assessment scores to evaluate teachers continues to fuel mistrust and the “opt out movement” thus putting school districts at a disadvantage in measuring student achievement.
- ◆ New English as a New Language Instruction regulations result in a need to increase staffing and services that are challenging to meet within a tax cap.

### **TRANSGENDER STUDENTS**

Meeting the privacy needs of transgender students will likely result in additional unfunded mandates. School districts understand that all students have diverse needs. In turn, schools work hard to ensure that those needs are met.

The state should be mindful of any legislation that would create additional local costs and should support those costs dollar for dollar.

### **THE NYS PROPERTY TAX LEVY CAP:**

...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 Education to present a budget that “overrides” the cap, but will need 60% voter approval. Tax cap expires in 2016 – 2017.

### **ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE**

The Farmingdale Legislative Action Committee will continue to lobby for the reinstatement of one person, one vote and the removal of the current 60% super-majority to override the cap on the tax levy.

### **UNFUNDED MANDATES**

The Farmingdale Legislative Action Committee will push for the elimination of 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.

Last year, for example, the State Legislature has mandated that Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (C.P.R.) will be a course requirement for all students in order to graduate high school.

The Legislature is considering requiring districts to add elementary guidance counselors without even asking the question... ***Do you have staff who performs counseling services now?***

### **NEW ENL REQUIREMENTS**

New requirements for our English as a New Language (ENL) program were imposed in 2015-16 that require the hiring of additional staff.

### **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

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

### **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.