



**PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

106 Washington Avenue, Plainview, New York 11803
www.pobschools.org

Board of Education

Debbie Bernstein

Seth Greenberg

Gary Bettan

Jared Goerke

Ginger Lieberman

Tara Rock

Lauren Sackstein

March 26, 2024

Dear (Senator/Assemblymember),

We'd like to begin by thanking you for your time at our legislative breakfast. We felt the conversation was productive and are appreciative of your partnership.

As we discussed, the changes to foundation aid in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget would negatively impact the Board of Education and administration's ability to responsibly create our annual budget. The elimination of Save Harmless alone would make it nearly impossible to create multi-year financial plans due to uncertainty in forecasting our state aid.

We do believe that changes to the foundation aid system are necessary, but this proposal does more harm than good. Most of all what is needed is more funding for public education. Our costs for insurance, supplies, building materials, special education services and energy have skyrocketed. While we have negotiated to keep our labor costs down, these other costs are putting extreme pressure on our budget.

These concerns become greater due to the tax cap and consistent unfunded and underfunded mandates imposed on our school districts. While we agree with many of the proposals from the state, especially ones around mental health, we cannot and should not be expected to foot the bill.

School districts are the only municipality that must present our budget to the taxpayers as a referendum for approval, yet we are constantly put into challenging situations because of various exemptions approved by the legislature that we have no control over nor visibility into the actual impact to our stakeholders and district. We want to offer our taxpayers every form of relief possible, but if the exemption is not being funded by the state, it shifts the burden to other taxpayers in our community.

We all have an enormous responsibility to our constituents to be fiscally responsible with their tax dollars. In that vein, we are here to work with you to discuss issues concerning our school district and how your potential decisions may affect us.

We thank you again for your time and look forward to a continued partnership in delivering for the students and taxpayers in the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District.

Respectfully,
The Plainview-Old Bethpage Board of Education