Freezes, Cuts, Caps & Costs: Truth and Consequences

October 4, 2012

Presented by:
Gary D. Bixhorn
Eastern Suffolk BOCES Chief Operating Officer and
Suffolk County School Superintendents Association Legislative Chairperson

Overview of Issues

LIEC Surveys

Conclusions and Questions
Public support for Long Island schools remains at an all-time high. Voters approved 124 of 124 school budgets.

9 budgets were initially defeated by voters. However, 6 of the defeats occurred even though a majority of voters said “yes”.

65% (91,505 vs. 167,235) of those voting on school budgets – voted YES.

Over 25% of low-wealth districts, but less than 10% of mid- and high-wealth districts proposed a levy in excess of the cap.

Long Island remains over-dependent on property taxes to support our schools. In 2011-12, property taxes made up 71% of school revenues; in 2012-13, the percentage will be virtually unchanged.
Many school districts renegotiated existing labor contracts, or negotiated new contracts with lower rates of increase in base pay and increment.

Schools had to intensify efforts to engage communities because certain aspects of the tax cap were not understood; and

The consequences of a second budget defeat (frozen tax levy) are far more severe than under the old contingency budget rules. This needed to be explained.

School districts used fund balance to keep tax increases within the limits of the cap. In the aggregate, districts applied $379 million in fund balance to the tax levy.

Audited statements indicate that Long Island schools reduced fund balance by 5.5% ($25.1 million) between June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

The Property Tax Report Card (PTRC) indicates that Long Island schools will reduce fund balance by 9.5% ($41 million) between June 30, 2011 and June 30, 2012.
114 school districts responded to the Long Island Coalition (LIEC) survey in the spring of 2011. It revealed that a disproportionately large number of low-wealth districts (CWR <1.0) reduced programs and services for 2011-12 as a result of state aid reductions.

The survey was recently repeated for 2012-13. Results (92 school districts) indicate that program and service cuts occurred in school districts within all wealth categories this year.

The results of the spring 2011 (2011-12) survey, and the results of the spring 2012 (2012-13) survey are as follows:

---

**Long Island Schools: Truth & Consequences**

**CLASS SIZE OVER 25**

2010-11 to 2012-13

*Data notes to increase in class size over 25 in the high wealth category for the following: 2010-11 to 2012-13 Elem, 2010-11 to 2011-12 Middle, and 2010-11 High School.*

---
Long Island Schools: Truth & Consequences

POSITIONS ELIMINATED
(2011-12 One Year) - (2012-13 One Year) - (All School Districts)

STAFF EXCESSSED
(2011-12 One Year) - (2012-13 One Year) - (All School Districts)

Percent of Districts Reducing H.S. Electives, AP Courses, BOCES CTE >10%

The sum of the three wealth categories do not add up to the total stated, as 3 districts that do not report CWRs were excluded from the wealth breakdowns.
Long Island Schools: Truth & Consequences

Percent of Districts Reducing Music Groups >10%

- Elem. Music Groups - High Wealth: 12%
- Elem. Music Groups - Mid Wealth: 6%
- Elem. Music Groups - Low Wealth: 3%
- M.S. Music Groups - High Wealth: 7%
- M.S. Music Groups - Mid Wealth: 3%
- M.S. Music Groups - Low Wealth: 7%
- H.S. Music Groups - High Wealth: 6%
- H.S. Music Groups - Mid Wealth: 26%
- H.S. Music Groups - Low Wealth: 26%

Long Island Schools: Truth & Consequences

Percent of Districts Reducing Before/After School >10%

- Elem. Before/After School - High Wealth: 15%
- Elem. Before/After School - Mid Wealth: 5%
- Elem. Before/After School - Low Wealth: 10%
- M.S. Before/After School - High Wealth: 15%
- M.S. Before/After School - Mid Wealth: 12%
- M.S. Before/After School - Low Wealth: 10%
- H.S. Before/After School - High Wealth: 6%
- H.S. Before/After School - Mid Wealth: 7%
- H.S. Before/After School - Low Wealth: 3%
Long Island Schools: Truth & Consequences

Percent of Districts Reducing Clubs >10%

- H.S. Clubs: High Wealth
  - 2011-12: 11%, 2012-13: 8%
- H.S. Clubs: Mid Wealth
  - 2011-12: 13%, 2012-13: 13%
- H.S. Clubs: Low Wealth
  - 2011-12: 3%, 2012-13: 26%
- M.S. Clubs: High Wealth
  - 2011-12: 13%, 2012-13: 13%
- M.S. Clubs: Mid Wealth
  - 2011-12: 3%, 2012-13: 26%
- M.S. Clubs: Low Wealth
  - 2011-12: 13%, 2012-13: 13%
- Elem. Clubs: High Wealth
  - 2011-12: 11%, 2012-13: 11%
- Elem. Clubs: Mid Wealth
  - 2011-12: 25%, 2012-13: 22%
- Elem. Clubs: Low Wealth
  - 2011-12: 11%, 2012-13: 11%

Percent of Districts Reducing Alt. Ed., Field Trips, Art >10%

- Alt. Ed.: High Wealth
  - 2011-12: 7%, 2012-13: 6%
- Alt. Ed.: Mid Wealth
  - 2011-12: 18%, 2012-13: 16%
- Alt. Ed.: Low Wealth
  - 2011-12: 20%, 2012-13: 13%
- Field Trips: High Wealth
  - 2011-12: 31%, 2012-13: 31%
- Field Trips: Mid Wealth
  - 2011-12: 18%, 2012-13: 16%
- Field Trips: Low Wealth
  - 2011-12: 20%, 2012-13: 13%
- Art: High Wealth
  - 2011-12: 3%, 2012-13: 6%
- Art: Mid Wealth
  - 2011-12: 11%, 2012-13: 11%
- Art: Low Wealth
  - 2011-12: 11%, 2012-13: 11%
The cap quickly became a “measuring stick” for the public – budgets within the cap were supported.

Districts seeking to exceed the cap engaged in especially intense community outreach.

Program and service reductions that primarily impacted low-wealth districts last year as a result of aid cuts, are now occurring in districts in all wealth categories.

The “zero consequence” is an all new level of challenge.
Conclusions & Questions

- Districts/Communities are being compelled to make very difficult decisions (i.e. school closings, elimination of kindergarten, transportation limits, etc.)
- Fund balance is decreasing. Is it being managed carefully?
- Will meaningful mandate relief occur?
- Can cost increases be reduced to the point that they equal state aid and levy limit increases?
- Can the 70%+ property tax share of funding be reduced?

Long Island Education Coalition
Long Island Association

Contacts

Dr. Judith Chen
Long Island Education Coalition
Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association
jchen@pob.k12.ny.us

Mr. Vincent Lyons
Long Island Education Coalition
New York State United Teachers Union
vlyons@nysut.org

Ms. Lorraine Deller
Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association
lorraine@nssba.org

Mr. Gary D. Bixhorn
Suffolk County School Superintendents Association
Eastern Suffolk BOCES
gbiahorn@esboces.org
**Eastern Suffolk BOCES**

**Board and Administration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Lisa Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Sandra Townsend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member and Clerk</td>
<td>Fred Langstaff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Pamela Bethel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walter Wm. Denker, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen Dewey, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Garvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katherine J. Hatzakis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Huang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Susan Lipman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph Lusichero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anne Mackeary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William K. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeffrey Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Wyche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Superintendent</td>
<td>Dean T. Lasors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Operating Officer</td>
<td>Gary D. Bishoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Superintendent</td>
<td>Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educational Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Superintendent</td>
<td>Barbara M. Sartore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>R. Terri McGovern, Ed.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directors/Managers</td>
<td>Marilyn H. Adkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education and Information Support Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keith Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Building Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leah Arnold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Career, Technical and Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Bedeker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrea M. Groome, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communications, Research and Recruitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mignon Raini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colleen Lippuner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gary Nelsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Technology Integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joanne K. Werck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Information Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Candace White-Crist, Ed.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning and Program Improvement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eastern Suffolk BOCES does not discriminate against any employee, student, applicant for employment, or candidate for enrollment on the basis of gender, race, color, religion or creed, age, weight, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, marital or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.

Eastern Suffolk BOCES does not discriminate against any employee, student, applicant for employment, or candidate for enrollment on the basis of gender, race, color, religion or creed, age, weight, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, marital or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.

Eastern Suffolk BOCES does not discriminate against any employee, student, applicant for employment, or candidate for enrollment on the basis of gender, race, color, religion or creed, age, weight, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, marital or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.