



## Huntington Union Free School District

*"A Tradition of Excellence since 1657"*

James W. Polansky

Superintendent of Schools

September 30, 2014

Mr. Peter Sloggatt, Editor  
The Long Islander  
14 Wall Street  
Huntington, New York 11743

Dear Mr. Sloggatt:

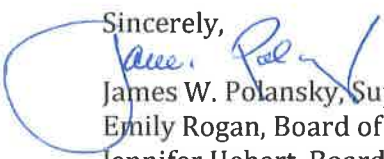
This letter is in response to your editorial, "School Boards Should Remember," in the September 25<sup>th</sup> issue of your newspaper.

We are in agreement that school boards' primary responsibility is the education of their students. However the suggestion that we are, in some way, trying to prevent students from entering our district is unfounded. In fact, as other districts experience a decline in enrollment (Half Hollow Hills just closed two schools for that reason), our enrollment has remained stable or increased over the past several years.

It is our responsibility to do everything in our power to meet the educational needs of *all* district students. When Town development occurs without any associated financial benefit to the large majority of district taxpayers, it clearly leaves the onus on the school district to address the matter. This has been more the norm than the exception in the Huntington School District. In light of the current taxpayer burden, residents of most districts are generally unwilling to accept tax increases that exceed the state-imposed cap, particularly when it would preclude receipt of a significant tax rebate.

We therefore respectfully disagree that this board and administration have overstepped boundaries. We will continue to speak out in the best interest of our students and school community.

Sincerely,

  
James W. Polansky, Superintendent of Schools  
Emily Rogan, Board of Education President  
Jennifer Hebert, Board of Education Vice President  
Tom DiGiacomo, Board Trustee  
Bill Dwyer, Board Trustee  
Bari Fehrs, Board Trustee  
Xavier Palacios, Board Trustee

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