

## Councilman Panico Joins Over 1,000 Residents to Fight for a Fair Share of School Aid for Long Island

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**Farmingville, NY** - On Sunday March 20, 2011, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico joined with over 1,000 residents at William Floyd High School to speak up about the pending school district aid cuts to local school districts.

"I thank William Floyd School Board President Robert Vecchio for affording me the opportunity to address the audience. I also thank State Senators Zeldin, LaValle, Flanagan and Assembly members Murray and Thiele for an excellent presentation about pending school aid cuts," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "The fact that these cuts disproportionately affect the schools in my district, place those students at a competitive disadvantage when competing for scholarships and opportunities to get into college. Moreover, the fact that students in my district will potentially not have the same athletic and artistic opportunities presented to them is cause for concern not only to parents and educators, but also to the community at large."

Councilman Panico represents an area whose children attend the schools of William Floyd, Longwood, Eastport-South Manor, Center Moriches, East Moriches, Riverhead and Westhampton Beach School Districts.

"Every year our children's programs and opportunities are being driven to the brink of extinction. We, as taxpayers and residents, no longer can shoulder the hefty yearly increases needed to sustain these programs," commented Panico. "It is time that we elevate our voices and action in Albany to demand drastic change to the school aid formula. The inequity that has continued for decades has created an untenable situation that is crushing Long Island, forcing our families and loved ones to move away, and depriving our children of opportunity."

"These cuts resonate across the community and across political lines. There is no equitability with regard to the amount of money we send Albany, and the amount of money we get back in terms of school aid. We are all in this together and need to work shoulder to shoulder with our Senators and Assembly members as a regional community to fight for the funding that we deserve," concluded Panico.





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