



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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May 5, 2009

**TO: Senator Brian Foley
Senator Craig Johnson
Senator Suzi Oppenheimer
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins**

cc: Long Island Senate and Assembly Delegation

**FROM: Jim Kaden, President
Fran Greenspan, Legislation Committee Chair**

RE: MTA School Payroll Tax - DON'T SELL OUT for the BAILOUT!

The 8 p.m. press conference revealing the Senate's MTA bailout deal was appropriately timed.....IN THE DARK OF NIGHT! An announcement that the scheme would be put to a vote in the Assembly and Senate in less than 24 hours (utilizing a "message of necessity")BACKROOM DEALING AT ITS WORST!

Nowhere but in the dysfunctional system that is now New York State government would a scheme to raid local education dollars to bailout a transit system be taken seriously.

Long Island schools are being ordered to take on a permanent obligation to fund the MTA in exchange for a promissory note that is not worth the paper it is not written on.

In two weeks our voters will pass judgment on local school budgets that are the tightest in years....school budgets that do not include the \$24.4 mandated increase for the MTA. A "reimbursement", if it comes at all, would not be taken up until the 2010-11 state budget.

And what then? Is the MTA "reimbursement" to be added to the list of promised aids that our schools have to fight for annually? How soon will it be before the "reimbursement" is viewed as extra state aid going to "rich" Long Island? How long will it take before school districts are chastised for the increases in their expenditure budgets to accommodate the additional payroll costs?

IS THIS WHAT YOU, OUR SUBURBAN STATE SENATORS, AGREED TO?

LONG ISLANDERS DESERVE BETTER – DON'T BRING OUR SCHOOLS INTO THE MTA FUNDING SHELL GAME – PROTECT EDUCATION DOLLARS!