

# N-SSBA

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association

SERVICE, SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

## Newsline December 2022 edition

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## Offshore Wind Energy & Manufacturing Industry Expo Event a Success!



Over 220 people gathered on 11/9/22 at the Cradle of Aviation to hear about the new Offshore Wind Energy industry coming to Long Island and also got reacquainted with a long existing industry in our region in manufacturing. In the future the Offshore Wind Energy industry will create over 10,000 jobs in our region and they are looking towards public education to partner and collaborate to raise awareness and help with future workforce development needs. Farmingdale State University presented to the attendees the higher education programs already in place to help with workforce development as well.

The manufacturing industry was well represented. On Long Island there are over 3,000 employers and over 72,000 jobs in manufacturing with an average salary of \$82,000 a year. U.S. Navy Master Chief Josh Sturgill explained to those in attendance the on-going critical role Long Island manufacturers play in defense contracting of high quality parts for the Naval submarine fleet as an example of the importance of manufacturing in our region. The feedback after the event from educators was impressive and that the event had a lot of meaningful information shared and great opportunities to network with industry professionals to create unique opportunities for our students. Special thanks to our corporate sponsors of the event, Attentive Energy, Community Offshore Wind, Haugland Group, and Sunrise Wind.

The speaker portion of the program finished with a high school senior from West Islip High School, Robert Mineo, who reminded the audience about the importance of partnerships with business and schools which enabled him to have an internship at local manufacturer which has now set him on a path to become an engineer after graduation.

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### Over 54 school Districts on Long Island Participate in Advocacy Event to Promote Free Meals For All Students in NYS

On 12/13/22, N-SSBA in partnership with the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island (HWCLI) co-hosted an online meeting convening of stakeholders in education and the human social services sector to discuss advocacy for Free Meals for All New York State Students.

This initiative is being spearheaded by Hunger Solutions NY, and they are advocating to lawmakers in NYS to make this policy ask as part of the upcoming budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. NYSSBA has also taken a lead role in calling for action on this initiative as well and you can find their actions by clicking on this link [meals for all students take action](#). (ctrl+click)  
Visit the hunger solutions website for more information: <https://hungersolutionsny.org/> (ctrl+click)

## Uniondale School District Presents at CUBE 2022!

Uniondale students, staff and board members presented a workshop on Facilitating Authentic Student Voice (Walk it Like You Talk it: Creating Authentic Spaces for Student Voice) at the CUBE conference on Friday, December 9, 2022 in Miami, Florida.

Board trustee, Adelina Blanco-Harvey, Stacie Reid, Director of Guidance, Keith Coles, Social Worker at Lawrence Road Middle School and two Uniondale High School students; Edward Genao and Justin Holness, joined superintendent Dr. Monique Darrisaw-Akil in discussing the ways the school district is working to empower students, promote self-efficacy and create opportunities for leadership.

Trustee Blanco-Harvey discussed the Board's commitment to having a student board member as well as other ways the Board involves students in decision-making. Superintendent Darrisaw-Akil talked about the underlying beliefs around student voice and the importance of empowering students from historically marginalized groups. Ms. Reid and Mr. Coles illustrated the numerous initiatives at both the building level and the district level to involve students and the two students each shared their personal experiences as student leaders. The presenters ended the session by asking each attendee to make a commitment to increasing student voice in their districts.



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**“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing”- Theodore Roosevelt**

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## Have Your School and Students On The Radio!

“Spotlight on Long Island Schools” on LI News Radio highlights Long Island school districts, specific schools, students, and teachers, promoting school pride moments, communicating school messages and curriculum, while providing thought-provoking interviews and discussions with school officials and educational leaders in the communities we serve.

This is a new service that N-SSBA is offering its member districts as a way to give your students and staff a truly unique experience by giving your district the ability to positively promote something either unique or special that you do in your district that you want your community and communities outside of your area to know about. After the show airs your district receives a copy of the show so you can promote in your electronic newsletters or other electronic media outlets.

**To sign your district up for a show email Bob Vecchio at [bvecchio@nssba.org](mailto:bvecchio@nssba.org).**

**Below are the links to the some recent shows that were recorded and aired:**

**CTRL + click on the links below**

[Malverne SD](#)

[Lynbrook SD](#)

[Freeport SD](#)

[Lindenhurst SD](#)

[Wyandanch SD](#)

[Mineola SD](#)

[West Babylon SD](#)

[Mattituck-Cutchogue SD](#)

[Superintendents roundtable](#)

## Learn About the Alzheimer's Association's Long Island Chapter

The Alzheimer's Association, Long Island Chapter serves everyone impacted by Alzheimer's disease or any other form of dementia. The chapter is based in Melville and offers programs across Long Island. Today, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease—a leading cause of death in the United States. More than 410,000 of them live in New York, along with their 586,000 caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association provides programs and services, including support groups, educational resources, activities for people with early-stage dementia, and consultations and other support for caregivers. The chapter's local services are delivered by a highly qualified team of professional social workers, counselors, and certified dementia practitioners and all are free.

Douglas E. Davidson, Executive Director of the Long Island Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association says, "We are here to help everyone facing a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other type of dementia. We don't want anyone facing this alone." He added, "The Alzheimer's Association assists people affected by this disease today, and we're also trying to improve the future through policy and research funding."

This is made possible through support from the community, including representatives and students from schools across Nassau and Suffolk counties. The Alzheimer's Association offers many ways to get involved, such as advocacy, volunteering, and fundraising. In 2022, local schools raised more than \$20,000 for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, which is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research.

To learn more about the Alzheimer's Association, the free programs and services it provides on Long Island, and how you can get involved, visit [alz.org/longisland](http://alz.org/longisland) or call 800.272.3900.



### **Presents**

#### **A N-SSBA Member District Only Event**

### **"A Conversation With the Commissioner"**

Join Us As We Welcome NYSED Commissioner Dr. Betty Rosa

**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023  
**Time:** 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
**Price:** \$100 (includes dinner)  
**Location:** Heritage Club at Bethpage State Park

Come learn and discuss the initiatives and priorities that the State Education Department is putting forward and discuss important topics impacting our public education system such as full funding of the Foundation Aid formula and what will be next, the Blue Ribbon Commission for graduation standards, and school accountability measures.



### **N-SSBA Welcomes a New Executive Committee Member!**

At the September meeting of the Executive Committee, the Committee voted to appoint Maria Elena Venuto to serve on the Executive Committee. Ms. Venuto is the Board President of the Glen Cove School District and was named a 2019 NYS Senate Woman of Distinction. Welcome aboard Maria!



**On behalf of  
N-SSBA's officers,  
Executive Committee members,  
and staff we want  
to wish you and  
your families a very  
Happy, Healthy and  
Joyous Holiday Season. We thank you  
for your past support and look forward  
to our  
continued work  
together going into  
2023!**

**N-SSBA's  
Executive Director  
Robert Vecchio  
Appointed to LIPA  
Advisory Committee**

Assemblyman Fred Thiele recommended N-SSBA's Executive Director to be appointed to the LIPA Advisory Committee which will to report the Legislative LIPA Commission which Mr. Thiele co-chairs along with Senator Kevin Thomas.

The LIPA Commission is a bipartisan legislative commission which is exploring all options on how best to structure LIPA going forward.

LIPA is currently set up as a hybrid public/private power authority. LIPA sub-contracts out the servicing and management of the grid to PSE&G Long Island.

Assemblyman Thiele said this arrangement is the only one of its kind in the country, and he believes should be operated differently to enable cost savings to ratepayers and have better management for service delivery and a better storm recovery response.

The Advisory Committee will be exploring all options going forward and will make recommendations to the Commission in a report by April 2024.

Mr. Vecchio stated he was honored to be asked to serve and is concerned about PILOT payments currently paid to schools across Long Island and what will happen to them if LIPA becomes a fully public power authority along with costs for service going forward as school districts are large customers as well.

The other concerns mentioned during the first meeting of the LIPA Advisory Committee were the long term debt and what the governance structure of LIPA going forward should be and how best to make sure there is accountability locally going forward.

For more information about the commission visit [www.nylipa.gov](http://www.nylipa.gov)

## A Message From Our President Michael Kelly

As you are reading this, I hope you and your family had a Happy Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is one of the few holidays where people travel from far and wide to celebrate with family and friends.

My wife, Clare and I were more than happy to host this year to nineteen family members. It was wonderful being able to gather together again and give thanks for all of our blessings. Thanksgiving is also the start of the holiday season. Almost overnight our neighborhoods became a festive scene of lights and decorations.

This is also the time of the year when many of our schools put on their holiday concerts. As board members, holiday concerts are one of the few times where we can see firsthand the hard work and talent of our students. While it may not be feasible to attend every concert, I hope you find time to show your support by attending a few events. I can guarantee you will not be disappointed.

These past few weeks have also been a busy time here at N-SSBA. To serve our members better, we have continued to host a variety of informational seminars.

On November 9, 2022, in conjunction with the Long Island Association, we hosted the Offshore Wind Energy Education Expo at the Cradle of Aviation. This event was attended by approximately 200 board members, superintendents, and other school personnel. This expo provided an opportunity to learn about a new emerging Long Island industry and explore workforce and STEM related opportunities.

On December 8, 2022, we hosted over 70 members to Part 1 of our "Know Your Story, Tell Your Story, Sell Your Story" seminar to learn how best to advocate for your district. Our guest for this dinner meeting was veteran Long Island NYS Assemblyman Fred Thiele. Assemblyman Thiele shared his thoughts on the best practices in advocating for your district and public education.

In our continuing effort to serve our members, I invite you to mark your calendars for the following upcoming events.

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, "Know Your Story, Tell Your Story, Sell Your Story" Advocacy training series Part 2 of 4- Long Island's Changing Demographics, its impact on your district operations.  
Wednesday,

February 8, 2023, "Know Your Story, Tell Your Story, Sell Your Story" Advocacy training series Part 3 of 4 - Financial Literacy Beyond the Mandate, Budgets, Reserves, and Fund Balance. Thursday, March 9, 2023, "Know Your Story, Tell Your Story, Sell Your Story" Advocacy training series Part 4 of 4 - "Marketing Matters: "Who Speaks For Your School Brand?"



In addition to the above, we are also hosting the following two very special events:

**Thursday, January 26, 2023, N-SSBA/NCCSS/SCSSA Joint Conference with special guest speaker NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.**

**Monday, April 24, 2023, "A Conversation With the Commissioner" – Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner of NYS Education Department**

Details and registration for these exciting events will be sent to your district clerks.

Finally, N-SSBA has joined The Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids (HSMFA NY Kids) campaign supporting the establishment and funding of a statewide, permanent free school meals program. NYSSBA has provided links and invites you to take action (see cover page story). After entering your address, the pre-populated letter will be ready for distribution to your state legislators, as well as to the Executive Chamber. You may edit the letter to add a district-specific perspective.

NYSSBA also invites you to advocate for free school in person at the Capitol on Monday, January 9, 2023. Please [register here](#) or email [caroline.bobick@nyssba.org](mailto:caroline.bobick@nyssba.org) for more information.

In closing, on behalf of N-SSBA, may you and your family enjoy this holiday season and may the new year bring good health and happiness.



## N-SSBA Advocacy Training Workshops “Know Your Story, Tell Your Story, Sell Your Story”

N-SSBA hosted the first event in this advocacy series on 12/8/22. Over 70 people registered for the event held at the Heritage Club at Bethpage and heard directly from veteran NYS Assemblyman Fred Thiele about best practices for advocating with your federal & state officials. Our next training is a free online webinar about Long Island’s changing demographics which will be held on 1/10/23 at 7:00pm. Check with your district clerk for registration information.



## NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli Will Be Our Featured Speaker at Our Annual Joint Conference with the Nassau & Suffolk County Superintendents’ Associations On 1/26/2023

Join us for this event which will be held on January 26, 2023 starting at 6:30pm at the Hilton Long Island Huntington. NYS Comptroller DiNapoli will provide a timely update on New York State’s economic condition and its impact on the upcoming budget. He will also discuss other issues from his perspective and highlight some of the common findings the Comptroller’s office is finding in school audits that are being conducted. Check with your district clerk for registration information for this important event.



## N-SSBA in the News

Click on the links below to see recent news articles that N-SSBA was referenced

[Newsday Story on Offshore Wind](#)

[Newsday Story Universal Meals for All NY Students](#)

[LIPA Advisory Committee Press Release](#)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

1/10/23	N-SSBA's Advocacy Workshop "Know Your Story, Tell Your Story, Sell Your Story" Part 2 – LI's Changing Demographics, Its Impact on Operations and School Finances (Free Online Event)
1/26/23	N-SSBA's Joint Conference with the Nassau & Suffolk School Superintendents Hilton Long Island Huntington
1/28/23-1/31/23	NSBA Equity Symposium and National Advocacy Institute, Washington, D.C.
2/4/23	Longwood Legislative Breakfast
2/8/23	N-SSBA's Advocacy Workshop "Know Your Story, Tell Your Story, Sell Your Story" Part 3 - Financial Literacy Beyond the Mandate - Sayville HS
2/10/23	NYSSBA's Annual Capital Conference 2023– Virtual Event
2/15/23	NYSSBA's Advocacy Day 2023– NYS Capitol Building, Albany
3/9/23	N-SSBA's Advocacy Workshop "Know Your Story, Tell Your Story, Sell Your Story" Part 4 – Marketing Matters: "Who Speaks for Your Brand?" Heritage Club @ Bethpage State Park

### From the N-SSBA Archives N-SSBA's Semi-Annual Dinner Meeting Amityville Junior High School December 18, 1969

#### 3. Taylor Law

Mrs. Anita Messinger, Chairman, submitted copies of the Taylor Law Committee survey, a copy of which is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

#### New Business

1. Dr. David Guerin, President of the Long Island Educational Communications Council, addressed the membership. He stated his concern over the fact that so many school budgets are being defeated and that his organization is interested in reaching the public by setting up an exhibit at Roosevelt Field on March 19, 20, and 21, 1970 to demonstrate to the public what quality education is through the use of films of students at work and by distributing brochures. He asked for the endorsement of Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association.
2. Mr. Nissenoff, of Long Beach School Board, spoke to the membership concerning the State taxes being imposed on districts which are in the process building schools. He urged members who are interested in abolishing the section of the tax law which requires school districts to pay this tax to contact him at Long Beach.
3. A copy of the Great Neck Resolution concerning opposition to the use of public funds for parochial and private schools was distributed. It was stated that in order to consider this matter an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the districts present on suspension of the by-laws was required, whereupon a motion from the floor was made and seconded but failed to carry the 2/3 affirmative votes. There were 29 affirmative votes, 13 opposing and 3 abstentions cast.

#### General Discussion

1. Mr. Kafka, President of NYSTA, addressed the membership. He said that teachers wish to have a part of the growth of the economy. He said that teachers are very much concerned about maintaining sound educational programs and will not stand by and watch cuts in the educational program to save money. He mentioned that teachers also wish changes in the Taylor Law to provide equality at the negotiating table - to bring about a grievance with no unilateral action on any one group. He reaffirmed that teachers, also, believe in equal educational opportunity. He further declared that teachers want a voice and involvement in the decision making process in order to bring about improvement in education. He agreed that there are a few incompetent teachers who should not be teaching. He stated that teachers have to be involved in setting standards in licensing and providing removal of licenses from those who are not able. He noted that teachers are willing to accept the responsibility but want a sharing of the power. Mr. Kafka declared that only the Board of Education has the power to grant tenure and remove a teacher and that it is truly possible to remove a tenure teacher from his position.