

# NS Board of Education Update: Quality of Education at the North Shore School District in Jeopardy

**The planned closing of a significant portion of LIPA/National Grid Power Plant in Glenwood Landing, the shift of the "County Guarantee" and the approved 2% cap on property taxes will have a dramatic impact on the kind of education that is synonymous with North Shore. Please join us for an important Town Meeting in the early fall.**

## [LIPA Announces "Phasing Out" of Glenwood Landing Power Plant](#)

In late June 2011, LIPA announced "phasing out" the Glenwood Landing and Far Rockaway power plants in an effort to "modernize and manage costs." They stated that these plants built in the 1950's "provide less than 2 percent of LIPA's total energy requirements...and are the oldest, most inefficient and expensive plants on Long Island."

This planned closing will potentially result in a shift of between \$5 and \$8 million dollars in school property taxes away from the utilities and onto the backs of our local homeowners. Since this would have a dramatic impact on local property tax bills, it would result in a need to cut back on school programs and positions in order to keep costs for our residents at an affordable level. **The Board is working proactively with LIPA, National Grid, local government officials and our New York State Legislators to do all they can to mitigate this potential crisis.**

## [Governor Signs 2 % Property Tax Cap Into Law](#)

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Governor Andrew Cuomo officially signed the 2% property tax cap into law. The tax cap limits the increase in property taxes each year for school districts and local municipalities to 2 percent in New York State, or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. School districts will be required to submit a tax levy proposition for approval by voters on the third Tuesday in May. If a community chooses to increase taxes more than the tax cap allows, a 60 percent vote can override it.

**The 2% cap on the tax levy, enacted by the NYS Legislature, will result in a need to cut back our ability to maintain current class size, and the scope and depth of educational programs we offer.** We again need residents to remain aware and to demonstrate a willingness to actively work with the Board to do whatever is necessary to lobby for significant mandate relief that would allow us to maintain the kind of education the North Shore community has come to expect.

## [The County Guarantee](#)

Currently when property owners challenge the assessed value of their properties and win a reduction in taxes, the County is responsible for paying the refund to the individual property owner. **The County, through a series of maneuvers is attempting to shift this burden to local school districts. This would result in us having to spend approximately \$1M per year for tax refunds and legal fees as opposed to instruction (a devastating prospect considering the 2% cap on the property tax levy).** Many school districts (including North Shore) along with the Town of North Hempstead are involved in litigation with the County to prevent this shift in financial burden.

**We urge the community to attend Board meetings and to frequently visit the North Shore Schools' website to remain apprised of these important issues and to ascertain how you can help to make sure our local public schools remain strong and vibrant.**