

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

It's that time of year again - the budget vote and the election of trustees to the North Shore Board of Education is upon us. Last year, the North Shore District Reform Group ("NSDRG") successfully supported two candidates, Marianne Manning Russo and Michael Nightingale, in their bids for election. We would like to highlight some of the changes that have occurred since their election.

The Board of Education has implemented the following changes:

1. Posting of the five year expenditure report on the District website;
2. Earlier start time for BOE meetings;
3. Videotaping of BOE meetings available for free on the District website;
4. Agenda modification to allow for earlier public comments, so that people do not have to stay until very late in the evening to have their voices heard;
5. Review and modification of legal bills;
6. Issuance of a request for proposal for district counsel;
7. BOE votes are no longer unanimous 7-0. The Board discusses and debates in public, numerous and varied issues; and
8. Independent review of the athletic department scheduled for next year.

While the Board of Education has to vote and agree to any modifications in policies, many, if not all, of these changes were made at the request of Marianne and Michael. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Herman Berliner, the President of the Board of Education, who has been open-minded and receptive to the suggestions of the new members and has endeavored to make transparency and community engagement a Board priority. It is readily apparent that the change in the composition of the Board and its leadership has started to effect positive change. However there is still more to do.

It is in this vein that NSDRG is supporting **Robert Mazzella** for the position of Trustee on the North Shore Board of Education. The primary role of the Board of Education is fiscal oversight of the District, not the implementation of academic programs, which falls within the purview of the District's Administration. Mr. Mazzella, a CPA and currently a Senior Marketing Director with over 20 years of experience overseeing multi-million budgets, is uniquely qualified to analyze the District's budget from both the perspective of a business person and a parent in the District. He can leverage his experience to analyze the audit reports and budgets that the Board of Education is required to review and manage.

Moreover, Robert Mazzella is the **ONLY** candidate who has regularly attended the North Shore District Board of Education meetings for the last two years. He sat on the 2014 Bond Committee and the 2014 Superintendent Advisory Council. Robert understands the issues that are facing our District, not some other school district, because he has been actively involved in OUR community. Robert is a member of the Glen Head - Glenwood Civic Council attending meetings with National Grid executives, community members, business leaders and local legislators. He has been on the forefront of the LIPA issues endeavoring to ease the financial burden that the closure of the Glenwood Landing Plant will have on our residents. He is also the President of the Property Owners' Association of North Shore Acres. Robert has a record as an active member of and advocate for our community and the issues that it confronts. Perhaps, and most importantly, not only has Mr. Mazzella volunteered his time for our community, but he is also a parent with children in our schools and understands what is at stake.

Robert Mazzella will continue to bring balance and oversight to the Board of Education. He will help keep the wheels of progress and change in motion. Please support Mr. Mazzella in his candidacy for the North Shore Board of Education - Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

The North Shore District Reform Group, Inc.