

PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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Dear Staff and Community,

CONGRATULATIONS! The overwhelming community support reflected in the democratic vote of 3,064 “yes” for the school budget to 1,847 “no” opposed to the school budget is a clear mandate for the continuation of the “Golden Age of Education” that we have all created for our students in Port Washington. Clearly, this is a tribute to the soaring record achievements of our students, the great job done by our staff, the outstanding leadership of our Board of Education, and the strengthening fabric of the best home-school partnership anywhere. Congratulations to Bill Hohausser and Alan Baer for their significant victories and election to the Board of Education and to three-time BOE President Rob Seiden who is retiring after nine outstanding years of volunteerism to our community. It is my honor to be able to play a small role in this wonderful success and to be your Superintendent of Schools.

What is perhaps most significant to note, to put this in perspective in such difficult economic times, I would remind staff and community how important it is to step back to see what our partnership together has accomplished. Outlined on page 2 is a chart reflecting defeated budgets and bonds at the turn of the century, contrasted with the now six consecutive years of 57% to 62.6% support of every single budget. This new and overwhelmingly positive coalition in our community has been built by balancing prudent educational decisions with careful financial strategic plans. Our students are now recognized nationwide as among the highest achieving in the country, and we continue to soar in the most difficult academic competitions like National Merits and Intels. Also, Port’s comprehensive graduation rate including our most at-risk students has risen to virtually 100% in the last five years. The commitment to excellence of the best faculty anywhere, beginning with the foundations built at the elementary schools, continuing with now one of the most recognized middle schools in New York State and the country, and culminating with a high school that has received national recognition in both *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, is a badge of honor for all of our community. The overwhelming positive vote demonstrates that this community has begun to truly appreciate the strength of the precious resources of outstanding education, coupled with our low per pupil cost in comparison to neighboring high achieving districts. The intelligent electorate of Port Washington realizes that with this educational excellence also comes real value in what they are spending. In the end in this great democracy, the voters speak. They have spoken.

In summary, it is with humility and deep appreciation that I thank all involved for everything that you have done to make this such a wonderful school system and community. Again, on behalf of my family and myself, I thank you for allowing me to play a small role and for the privilege of serving as your Superintendent. I pledge to you to do everything in my power to continue the soaring student achievement while fighting for taxpayers and reduced costs wherever possible. Thank you for your great support and for being a wonderful community. The best is yet to come!

Best Regards,



Geoffrey N. Gordon, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

GNG/da

**Port Washington School District
Budget Votes 1999 – 2011**

	Yes	No	Yes as % of Total
May 1999	1,543	1,890	44.95
May 2000	3,954	4,120	48.97
May 2006	4,085	2,441	62.60
May 2007	3,297	2,021	62.00
May 2008	2,955	2,167	57.69
May 2009	2,785	1,989	58.34
May 2010	2,880	2,102	57.81
May 2011	3,064	1,847	62.39