
John O'Farrell

Superintendent



As a district, we understand the Town's prioritization of the Melville Town Center and their desire to move quickly to ensure that these developments are successful, but it is our sincere hope that our concerns about PILOTS, incoming students and the impact to our tax cap are considered moving forward. It is possible that these new developments ultimately yield few students, as they've predicted, however that uncertainty poses a serious risk to the future of Half Hollow Hills. We will continue to advocate for a slower approval process that honors the pause and provides us with the time to analyze the actual impacts to the school district.

As noted in the recent Newsday story "Long Island hospitals took \$4.8 billion in property value off tax rolls, increasing taxpayer burden," we are extremely concerned about the effect the proposed NYU Langone hospital and Payments In Lieu of Taxes will have on our future. The Melville Town Center Overlay District, as well as the northern section of the East Farmingdale Overlay District, are located squarely within our boundaries, in a formerly industrial area that historically added no students and no costs to our district. Coupled with the recent LIPA settlement and Long Island towns choosing to pierce the 2% tax cap, our schools could be left with dwindling resources and increasing enrollment while our residents continue to see significant tax increases.