



*A Journey into the future*

# **GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **Board of Education**

*Colleen E Foley, President  
Barbara Trapasso, Vice President*

*Angela C. Heineman, Trustee  
Laura A. Hastings, Trustee*

February 16, 2011

Dear Garden City Resident:

### **Re: Garden City Board of Education Appeals to New York State for Mandate Relief**

With the New York Senate passing a 2% property tax levy cap beginning July 1, 2012, coupled with the millions of dollars in cuts in State and Federal education funds, school districts across New York State are facing unprecedented budget pressure and uncertainty about the future. Garden City is well known in the region, state and nation for the quality of its educational program, its extensive co-curricular and athletic programs and its commitment to community service and character education. This is evidenced, even in a weak economy, by the influx of young families to Garden City, a trend not seen in many school districts on Long Island. Our excellent schools are at the heart of maintaining our real estate investment and our identity as a community. The drastic cuts ahead threaten the very fabric of what makes Garden City a great place to live and raise a family.

The Board of Education has been working with other Long Island school districts in an effort to speak with one voice to call for responsible mandate reform before imposition of a tax cap. As part of this effort, the Board of Education unanimously adopted the letter below at its February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and sent it to Governor Cuomo, his Mandate Relief Team, Senators Skelos and Hannon, Speaker Silver and Assemblyman McKeivitt. We strongly urge members of the Garden City community to make their voices heard in Albany by sending the letter below to Governor Cuomo and local legislators.

Remember: Saying nothing is the same as consent—make your voice heard.

Sincerely,

The Garden City Board of Education

Colleen E. Foley, President  
Barbara Trapasso, Vice President  
Angela C. Heineman, Trustee  
Laura A. Hastings, Trustee