

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- > **SPENDING WILL RISE 5.9%**  
\*\*\*DOUBLE INFLATION\*\*\*
- > **TAX INCREASE ???**  
Not available at time of printing. Can we believe it when they tell us? Record State Aid and tapping of the reserves should leave little need for money. Remember they are holding \$1,500 for every household in Seaford! Reserves and State Aid may not be there at these levels next year, but a new teachers' contract will. **IF SALARIES & BENEFITS ARE NOT QUICKLY ADDRESSED, FUTURE TAXES WILL HAVE TO SOAR!**
- > **EVERYTHING CUT LAST YEAR WAS RESTORED!**

HOW? RECORD STATE AID + THEY TAPPED THE RESERVES (\$1,500 PER HOUSEHOLD THEY WERE HOLDING OF YOUR MONEY). PERHAPS THEY DID NOT HAVE TO CUT EVERYTHING LAST YEAR AFTERALL!

### WHERE'S THE \$\$\$\$ GOING?

- > **4.5% OF THE BUDGET INCREASE IS TO COVER HIGHER PENSION & MEDICAL BENEFIT COSTS.**
- > **BENEFIT COSTS ARE BUDGETED TO INCREASE 22.32% !** WHEN WILL THE TEACHERS PICK UP A FAIR SHARE OF THESE COSTS?
- > **84.31% OF THE BUDGET NOW COVERS SALARIES AND BENEFITS.**

AT THIS RATE, THE BUDGET WILL BE 100% SALARIES AND BENEFITS IN JUST 4 YEARS AND WE WILL BUDGET FOR NOTHING ELSE! OF COURSE, THIS CAN'T BE, SO TAXES WILL HAVE TO SKYROCKET TO PAY FOR NECESSITIES...UNLESS SALARIES AND BENEFITS ARE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL NOW.

With a 4 1/2% increase, we get nothing for the kids but more benefits for our teachers. If this trend continues, our school district will exist only to be a high-end social service center for pricey professionals and retirees a' la (j)M.

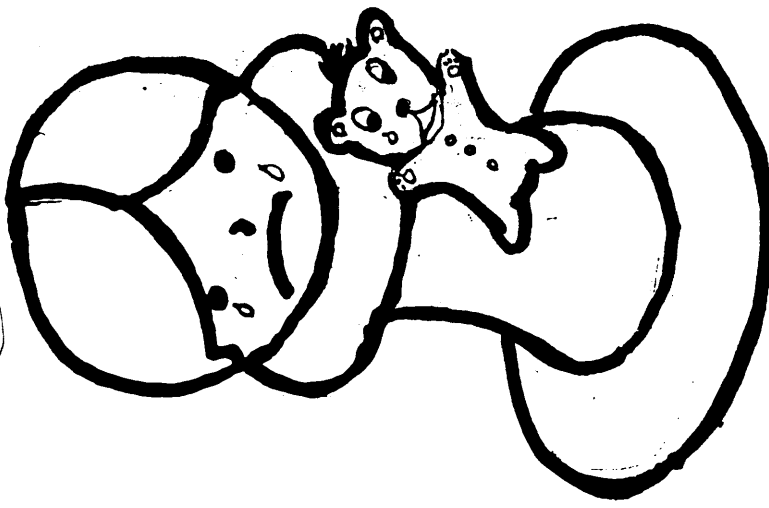
Speaking of teachers' contracts, note that when the union complains of a 3% or 4% annual pay increase, they are not taking into account annual step increases, higher pay rates for completing a masters, higher pay rate for taking additional (often easy) courses, longevity pay, extra events pay, etc... When you do the math, compensation would do just fine even with a "0%" annual raise. No wonder math skills in this country are so weak. How do you get over \$100k/year on 3% raises?

"Austerity" is not austere at all. It is a state law that allows the district to budget 1.2 times the rate of inflation. It also allows for debt service and increases in population outside of this formula. A district may present a budget less than "austerity", but why would they? Go on "austerity" and the state provides a big payday, despite what they tell you. Tell your boss that you will accept "austerity" if you can't get as big a raise as you want. (remember to up your mortgage and enlarge your family first.) LOL!

Do your part to  
stomp out

# KIDDIE PAWNS

In Seaford



(2)

## **PAWN: A CHESSMAN OF LEAST VALUE.**

Source: The Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

Like it or not, many of our children are being used as pawns by our school district.

Wanting to provide the very best for our children, many parents take everything we are told by the district to be true and accurate. History tells us otherwise.

School tax increases are substantially north of what we are told each and every year. Some of us believe these huge tax increases go to pay for necessary services for our kids. If we don't fork more over, we believe that bussing, all sports, and all music will be eliminated. We believe class sizes will soar just as we were told. We believe many teachers will be cut. We believe the quality of our children's education will plummet. Some of us respond to these ever-increasing monetary demands like a parent faced with their child's kidnapper: "Please mister, take whatever you want...just don't hurt little Johnnie."

(3)

The fact of the matter is that the district is substantially full of bologna. Our district was put on an "austerity" budget last year thanks to persistent voters. Prior to going on austerity, the district threatened residents with even higher tax increases in 2006 if we failed to pass their budget the second time around. They further threatened to cut sports and bussing. Check your old revote bulletin for the threats in their own words. And they did cut sports and late busses.

Thanks largely to an outsider looking in, \$1.7 million was miraculously discovered in various accounts, which left accountants, administrators, and board members twiddling their lips. Another school scandal headline, but this time in our backyard. Now the district was forced by law to return the money to the taxpayers (Heaven forbid!). After austerity, and after returning \$1.7 million, they still found money to restore nearly all of the sports programs they spitefully cut and private fund raising made up the small difference.

Were the claims of our school board and administration credible to begin with?

(4)

Sports and bussing pushes the buttons of concerned parents who want the most possible for their kids. In case you haven't noticed, they dust off this old playbook here in Seaford, each and every year just as sure as the sun rises.

When the district calls on us to pay higher taxes, often several times the rate of inflation, they do so in the name of our kids. They push our buttons. They are at least 84% wrong! I say this because over 84% of our budget goes to pay salaries and benefits. But district folk will never discuss this directly. They only refer to this as "contractual obligations". They agree to these contracts and the taxpayer becomes obligated to pay and pay.

This year, Mr. Duffy claimed 4 1/2% is needed just to cover pension and medical insurance increases. Our teachers only pay a token portion of medical insurance and after a short period of time, do not contribute towards one of the most lavish pensions available anywhere. Oh, and the teachers' contract is due to expire this June.

$$2 + 2 = 6$$

For most, a raise is fine. \*For school professionals, you need a raise, an annual step, a bump for completing a required masters degree, more bumps for additional easy courses, extra for conducting sports/music/drama activities, extra for heading a department, longevity pay for just hanging around for a while, and don't forget the paid sabbaticals where you take a paid year off to take more courses to qualify for more pay increases.

**\*AVG PAY INCREASE : 6.86%**

Light hours. No commute. More days off than God. Benefits like no other. Can't get fired once tenured. Can you think of any other job that gets the pay, benefits, working hours, time off, job security and commute of a Long Island educator? Not even political patronage jobs are so generous!

It is no wonder that last spring, the state teachers union spent over \$7Million on TV and radio spots to shore up public support for passing local school budgets...for the sake of the kids...(their kids, of course!)

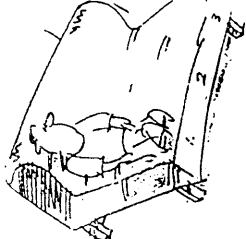
## THE "TOP 40", AND IT AIN'T KASEY KASEM'S...

	B A S E	BENEFITS	TOTAL
	C O M P		
GD	\$180,000	\$69,702	\$249,702
TC	\$136,644	\$52,913	\$189,557
BC	\$135,960	\$52,648	\$188,608
MR	\$131,225	\$50,815	\$182,040
PG	\$125,788	\$48,709	\$174,497
RC	\$121,540	\$47,064	\$168,604
JS	\$119,117	\$46,126	\$165,243
JD	\$115,000	\$44,532	\$159,532
MD	\$105,527	\$42,800	\$153,327
TV	\$105,326	\$40,786	\$146,112
SS	\$105,215	\$40,743	\$145,958
MB	\$103,300	\$40,001	\$143,301
TF	\$102,258	\$39,598	\$141,856
SB	\$101,913	\$39,464	\$141,377
DD	\$101,324	\$39,236	\$140,560
SR	\$101,076	\$39,140	\$140,216
AP	\$101,001	\$39,111	\$140,112
JM	\$101,001	\$39,111	\$140,112
DM	\$100,665	\$38,981	\$139,646
PS	\$99,076	\$38,365	\$137,441
FW	\$98,841	\$38,274	\$137,115
LL	\$98,841	\$38,274	\$137,115
KK	\$98,841	\$38,274	\$137,115
CC	\$98,841	\$38,274	\$137,115
BK	\$97,576	\$37,785	\$135,361
RK	\$97,576	\$37,785	\$135,361
LK	\$97,363	\$37,702	\$135,065
SG	\$97,079	\$37,592	\$134,671
JB	\$97,079	\$37,592	\$134,671
SW	\$97,041	\$37,577	\$134,618
SR	\$97,041	\$37,577	\$134,618
SB	\$97,041	\$37,577	\$134,618
SB	\$96,877	\$37,514	\$134,391
AK	\$96,576	\$37,397	\$133,973
DW	\$95,776	\$37,088	\$132,864
LD	\$95,776	\$37,088	\$132,864
LF	\$95,545	\$36,998	\$132,543
BS	\$95,541	\$36,997	\$132,538
BR	\$95,541	\$36,997	\$132,538
EM	\$95,541	\$36,997	\$132,538

## HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH ?

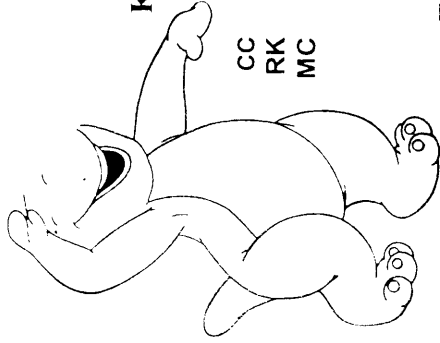
### SHIRINKS\*

JM	\$101,001.00
AP	\$101,001.00
PS	\$99,076.00



### KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS\*

CC	\$98,841.00
RK	\$97,576.00
MC	\$88,195.00



### ELEMENTARY TEACHERS\*

FW	\$98,841.00
SR	\$97,041.00
SW	\$97,041.00

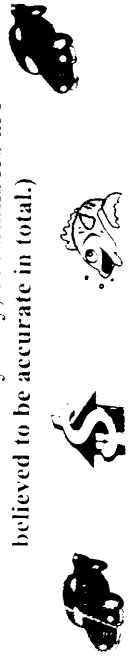


### \* ADMINISTRATORS

GD	\$180,000
TC	\$136,644
BC	\$135,960



(\*does not include benefits, "car allowances" or "Gratuities". Add 38.7% more for benefits alone. Benefits were estimated as a percentage of wages. Individual values may vary, but numbers are believed to be accurate in total.)



Remember the Seaford School District scandal last **SUMMER?**

Well, if you thought you heard enough....think **again.**

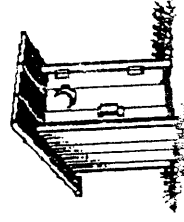
Last August, we learned that \$1.7 million dollars was somehow found but they never knew it was lost! This came after years of mega-school tax increases, cuts in services and threats of even higher taxes to follow. School Board members, the Treasurer and an assistant superintendent resigned. George Duffy's contract was not renewed this year. A clean slate for the District. Maybe. Maybe not.

The then Asst. Superintendent who abruptly retired ahead of schedule last summer was well, hmmm... well compensated. In fact he was so well compensated that he may have even gotten a "tip".



His contract called for a salary of \$142,000 a year. Reliable sources obtained copies of actual District payroll records believed to be authentic. Actual payments to Mr. Ed were \$147,000... \$5,000 more than his contract called for. But it gets better.

Although he took the fall for District problems last summer, he is an astute business manager...at least when it comes to his own affairs. Mr. Ed included in his contract a few perks that the other administrators did not get, such as an additional \$5,000 put into a tax deferred annuity of his choosing (this is in addition to his handsome pension), and fully paid dental. The latter two perks are cleverly done in a fashion not taxable to Mr. Ed at that time. The extra pay and extra perks come with an additional price tag to taxpayers of approximately \$10,200. Way to go!



A few questions are worth asking ...Who knew and approved of the extra pay? The extra perks?

Likely, the same folks who threatened us with a double-digit tax increase this year if we failed last year's budget revote (remember the District budget flyer?) Likely, the same folks who offered to reduce your tax increase by \$15 as an incentive to pass their budget (Look at the same District mailing from last year. You couldn't make this stuff up!) Likely, the same folks who said all sports would be cut...only to have most of the funding restored after returning \$1.7M to taxpayers AND after going on austerity AND after giving Mr.Ed his extras WHILE holding over \$1,500 of taxpayers' money in reserve for every household in Seaford. Now they are asking you for even more money. This is incredible!! Had enough yet?

