“**VOTE FOR THE SCHOOL BUDGET” is code for “vote for this year’s tax hike”.**

**GOOGLE: BaldwinBudget**

**The Village of Freeport, the Town of Hempstead and Nassau County** **have not raised property taxes for years**. With the Baldwin School District and most LI school districts, it’s an annual entitlement.

This year’s increase is 2%. Five years ago, longtime school board member Mrs. **MARY JO O’HAGAN** & Co. proposed the 7-6-6-6 plan, a four year 25% tax increase. The new tax cap law stopped **MRS. O’HAGAN**. She only mustered 57% and couldn’t break the cap.

 **Despite an $8.3M budget surplus** from the previous budget ( 2013), **MRS. O’HAGAN** & Superintendent **SCANNELL** cut $ 400,000 from our most beloved programs in 2014…. The Musical, Music, Sports, Sportsnite, Clubs. Month by month the business office monitored the 2014 budget as it racked up an $8.5 million surplus. Meanwhile caring parents and students frantically raised $ 250,000 to restore some of the cuts.

 **MARY JO O’HAGAN** needed to justify the failed 7% tax hike. **MRS. O’HAGAN** needed to save face and teach the caring and sacrificing parents that there are repercussions when budget tax hikes aren’t passed. The Board President in 2014 was Laura Williams.

As a result of these perennial tax hikes, school budgets consume 70% of our very high property taxes, 25% of our high NY State Income taxes and 12% of our Nassau County sales tax revenues. And our educators are in the top 99% compensation of American teachers. New York is 20th in educational achievement but **first in average cost per student** .

 **Our budget (80%) is a pass thru to the salaries and benefits of our educators**. That’s the **primary O’HAGAN agenda**.

 **Substantiation: Google BaldwinBudget**