

Humor



The new School Elective: Begging ©2013

Since the school board has squandered the ample revenue provided by the property owners in the District, their newest revenue source has become community fundraising

At Board meetings, there is a motion to accept \$500 from the Baldwin Order of the Sycamore Tree Society. The motion is seconded and the members vote to accept the money. Then a Board member leads in a clap of appreciation. Nobody likes an ungrateful beggar.

Our students are encouraged to participate in fundraising activities. There will soon be an event where they aimlessly and unproductively walk around the school track. I'm not sure how they raise money. Perhaps they find some coins on the ground.

That aforementioned activity is also part of the Baldwin School District's new campaign against childhood obesity. That makes it a twofer. As part of this fitness campaign, the School District has cut down bus service to encourage two mile hikes to schools each morning.

This winter we can expect to see our Juniors and Seniors working kettle pots outside Pathmark while they clang out, "Alms for the poor school district, alms for the poor" "Spare change, kind sir?"

As long as we're training our students to be street beggars, let's at least give them a handbook of instruction. I strongly urge the Baldwin Union Free School District to make Oliver Twist mandatory reading. Include Dickens in the core curriculum! With this caveat: no pickpocketing allowed.

Let's leave the pickpocketing to the adults in the community. For instance, a gas station owner is sympathetic enough to donate a penny a gallon from his daily revenue. The gracious merchant won't see a penny more of revenue from the fundraising signage. The District has him pick his own pocket. That's a scheme that the Artful Dodger would be envious of.

Fundraising is an activity that our school district points to as a mark of community pride & that I see as a signpost of community shame. The fiscal malfeasance of the school board has rendered our school district into an pauper and turned the generous residents of this District into a bunch of makeshift supplicants

It's a shame that this school district has no shame.

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Disclaimer: Educators should earn good salaries, **but should not have** exceptionally great salaries & benefits. Teachers are wonderful, competent, hardworking, skilled, highly educated, dedicated and caring people with amazing & brilliant union representation that has steamrollered & outfoxed school boards across Long Island.