

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**and**  
**ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**of the**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman  
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Thomas Cilmi  
Legislator Ricardo Montano  
Legislator Lynne Nowick

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Robert Lipp - Budget Review Office  
Joe Schroeder - Budget Review Office  
Jill Moss - Budget Review Office  
Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office  
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Eric Kopp - County Executive's Office  
Yves Michel - Commissioner - Economic Development  
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Caucus  
Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano  
JP DiMartino - Aide to Chairman Horsley  
Dr. Shaun McKay - President/Suffolk County Community College  
Kevin Peterman - Suffolk County Community College  
Ellen Schuler Mauk - Suffolk County Community College  
Dot Kerrigan - AME  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:05 P.M.\*)

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

May we all please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SALUTATION**

And please, may we all stand for a moment of silence for the men and women who are there protecting our freedoms day in and day out.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

All righty. Good afternoon. Welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee Meeting of Wednesday, April 13th. What we will do first, I have several cards. I'm not sure which one is first, because they are all spread all over the table here. But I guess I'll take Dr. Shaun McKay. Shaun, are you going to be giving a presentation? Did you want to do this as a separate issue? Oh, okay. We will call you in a second.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Thank you, sir.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

You are welcome. Ellen Schuler Mauk, of course, from the College Association.

**MS. SCHULER MAUK:**

Good afternoon. Ellen Schuler Mauk, President of the Faculty Association at Suffolk Community College. I thought I would be coming after the presentation on the college budget, but given the fact that I'm before the presentation on the college budget, I'm here today to support the College's request for an increase in the County contribution.

All of you know that for the last couple of years, the County has not increased its contribution. And the college -- both the college administration as well as the faculty, including the faculty union have tried to be cognizant and understanding of the fact that we were living through fiscal hard times. Two years ago, the Faculty Association agreed to increase our class sizes to accommodate an unprecedented increase in student enrollment. We did this because we did not want to turn people away at their time when they were coming to us, because from a financial standpoint, they were unable to go elsewhere or they needed to come to retool in order to continue working or to retool in order to get jobs in the job market.

Since that time, the faculty has entered into agreement with the college. We agreed to a contract that included two zeros. It also included in the increase of the class size, we continue that through 2014 in order to save the college some money. Again, none of us wants to turn students away, none of us want to eliminate programs. But we're now at a point with the State contribution decreasing and decreasing dramatically. And even though we did have some restoration, it was only a 39% restoration of what it was last year, okay? But we've also had cuts since 2008 that it becomes very difficult to sustain the programs, to sustain the increases in enrollment. And although the enrollments are much more modest than they were a couple of years ago, we nevertheless have students coming to us that we need to address.

And so I think that in terms of living up to the one-third/one-third partnership, which has been more honored than the breach, I come to you today to ask you to increase the County's contribution so that the increases that we need just to sustain what we're doing will not be on the backs of the students. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Ellen, just quickly, if I may, I just wanted to make a quick statement, and it's something that I just pointed out to the media as well about the one-third/one-third/one-third. And I certainly -- we're going to do our best, you know we will. We are often the wind under the college's wings.

But just also know that one-third/one-third/one-third, we also -- beyond that, we pick up six -- about \$6 million worth of debt service from the college, we also pick up about -- over the next three years, \$45 million in capital improvements that the taxpayers are giving to the college. So I just wanted to make sure that you get the full picture when we talk about just that 23% that I saw in the paper today.

**MS. SCHULER MAUK:**

I wasn't responding to the newspaper quote. But, you know -- - and we do appreciate the Legislature trying to address our needs; if they couldn't address in the Operating Budget, trying to address it in the Capital Budget. But as you know, we can't -- you know, if we want to keep student tuition as low as possible, we can't take money from the capital and put it into the Operating Budget. And, you know -- and we do think that this is, you know, the crowning gem of the County, and we want to continue it to be as such.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Well, we concur with the crowning gem. Rick -- Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Hi, how are you? Quick question. Making reference to that article that came out in the newspaper. It said college officials basically said that the college funding by law was supposed to be split equally. What law is that, because I've heard that numerous times? When you say "by law," is there a specific section or -- can you answer that?

**MS. SCHULER MAUK:**

There is a specific section. I think perhaps Lou Petrizzo could give you the exact one, but it goes with the founding of the community colleges. Now, in, I think, 1974, it indicated that the State would fund 40% if we became an open-opportunity enrollment college. The State hasn't lived up to it for that. And, you know -- so the State is not providing 40%, the County is not providing 30%, and the students are providing much more than --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Right. I understand that. Maybe you're not the person to ask the question. I don't know if you're the one that made the statement. But it begs the question: If this is supposed to be done by some law, then it appears to me that there is a violation of the law. And if there's a violation of the law, then what is the remedy? So who is the person that -- all right, we are pointing at someone. Who are you pointing at, Robert? Let me ask Budget Review. Thank you very much.

**MS. MOSS:**

I believe what they are referring to is New York State Education Law Article 126 Section 6304.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

All right. And what does it say? A summary, you don't have to read it to me.

**MS. MOSS:**

For a college that's implementing a program of full opportunity, the State be one-third, which is five-fifteenths or 33% -- that's a student, I'm sorry. The State should be at two-fifths or six-fifteenths, that's 40%; and the County would be four-fifteenths or 27%, not one-third.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

All right. Well, should be is not -- where's Counsel? Should be is not mandatory from the way I learned it.

**MS. MOSS:**

Like you are saying, I believe that's a Counsel question. I'm not an attorney.

**LEG. MONTANO**

Now, the gentleman who was going to stand up, Mr. Pertrillo (sic), former Legislator, right? How are you sir? Is it all right if we do this out of order? I don't want to impinge on the chairman, I just wanted to get an answer to question, but I know he has a program here.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

You're running away Rick, what can I tell you? Feel free. Mr. Petrizzo can help us. But, by the way --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Just on that one issue.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Go ahead.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Yeah. Just on that one issue. I mean, is this, in fact, something that is codified in the law? And if it is, are they in violation of the law? And if they're in violation of the law, what is remedy that the County could pursue? So it's a three-pronged question.

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

Let me answer the first two prongs. Yes, it is codified in the law. As Budget Review pointed out, it is in the Education Law 6304 Sub A. But it's also my understanding that each year when the State Legislature adopts the budget, they exempt themselves from the provisions of this law. So following the legislative mandate of "if I make the law, I can amend it or revoke or exempt myself for it," it's been our understanding that the Legislature -- State Legislature now, has exempted themselves from the requirements of that law. And therefore, there is no enforcement and no remedy.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So therefore, there's no way of enforcing it.

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

Correct.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Counsel, do you have anything to add on that?

**MR. NOLAN:**

I agree that if the State Legislature doesn't provide the money, that's in the statute, there's no remedy.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

One more question. Lou, before you leave, now, does this law also pertain to the County? In other words, if it's 40% for the County, is there a designated percentage -- I mean, for the State -- is

there a designated percentage for the County?

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

Yes, there is. And Budget Review did --

**MS. MOSS:**

Twenty seven percent.

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

We are open enrollment, so instead of being one-third, I think it's four-fifteenths.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So do we exempt ourselves -- if we're now at 23% and the law says that we're at 27%, do we exempt ourselves the way the State does?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Counsel has an opinion on that.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Counsel, you want to give me an opinion?

**MR. NOLAN:**

I don't have opinion on that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I thought you said that we are exempt.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Do you have opinion on that?

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

I don't have an opinion, I have an observation. I believe the observation is that once you -- once you approve our budget, it somehow magically falls into --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I can't hear you.

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

That you adjust our budget to fit into your parameters. So I think that that's what's been happening, but --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

What does that mean?

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

It means that you don't -- you don't comply with the law necessarily. You adjust our budget down from your point of view to comply with the law.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I don't get that.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I don't get that either. Counsel, do you have an opinion on that? Robert, you have an opinion on

that? I thought this was going to be easier than it is.

**MR. LIPP:**

The requirement, as we say in our reviews of the college budget, is a maintenance of effort requirement. In other words, we're not allowed to reduce the dollar amount of the County contributions, which is over \$38 million, 38.6 to be exact.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Just to summarize. I don't want to monopolize this. Just to summarize, we have a law on the books that the State doesn't comply with because they decide that they're going to exempt themselves in their budget, and we have a regulation in the County to provide for a certain level of funding, and we don't abide by it, because we just simply adjust our books.

**MR. LIPP:**

No. No. The way the requirement works is that we have to make maintain the County contribution. We cannot lower it, okay? We can raise it, but we cannot lower it. If we do lower it, then what would happen is we would lose State aid for the college. So it would be penny wise and dollar foolish at best.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's a separate -- yeah.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That doesn't add to the 23%.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Exactly. My question is if the law on the books requires us to be at 27%, how do we get to 23% without some kind of wither exemption or some kind of remedy that the college would have to implement or compel the County to comply with the existing law? Is that phrased properly, Counsel?

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

Yes.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Do you have an answer?

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

For what they do? No, I don't.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

But you'll have that next time, right?

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

Well, I think we all know what the answer is.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I seem to be the only one that doesn't know the answer. Could you share it with me?

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

Well, the answer is that the funding should be increased to whatever those statutory levels are.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Again, be mindful, Legislator, that we do pick up the debt service for the college, which is not included in the 23% as well as the capital cost.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Is that factored in to bring us --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's not factored in the 23%.

**MR. LIPP:**

No, it's not. The debt service is completely separate. We have to pay 100% of the debt service.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Right. Maybe I'm a little dense today, but I'm trying to understand, if we have a law, how come we're not in compliance with the law?

**MR. LIPP:**

I don't have an exact answer other than to say the maintenance of effort is a different piece of legislation. We could find out exactly what that is.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Maintenance of effort just is a term that means that use your best efforts, but you don't have to comply.

**MR. LIPP:**

No, the maintenance of effort says that you cannot reduce the contribution otherwise they'll be a penalty in terms of State aid.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That I understand.

**MR. LIPP:**

So therefore, as long as we keep that and it's a separate piece of legislation, we would not lose any State aid for the college. But we'll have to research to give you exactly what the relationship between the two is.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Then let's leave this for another day. The outstanding question is are we or are we not obligated to comply with whatever law you cited, 6304A or whatever other subdivision? And if we are obligated, you know, let us know. And if we are exempt, I'd like to know why we're at 23 instead of 27, which is where I think we're supposed to be. Thank you, sir.

**MR. PETRIZZO:**

You are welcome.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Thank you very much? Are there any further questions? Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For Budget Review, at first, I suppose. If we increased our contribution to the extent that the college would like us to increase our contribution, what total dollar amount would that be?

**MR. LIPP:**

A little bit in excess of one and a half million dollars.

**LEG. CILMI:**

One and a half million. Right, so --

**MR. LIPP:**

That would be what they're requesting, the 4% increase, if I have it correctly. Although, the presentation has not been yet. Our understanding is the request would be increases by 4%, which would be a little more than one and a half million.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So let me just point out, I sent a letter, I guess, a little more than a month or so ago to the Governor and to our State Delegation asking them to look into the issue of reimbursement to FIT. As you all know and maybe the folks from Suffolk Community College know, the County pays a total of roughly \$12 million in out of County tuition to other community colleges throughout New York State. Of that \$12 million, fully six million of it goes to FIT, which is a four year school that also offers Masters Degrees.

The fact that we have to pay more than 50% of our total out-of-County tuition to help fund students who are going to a four-year school of a very specialized degree program, to me, doesn't make much sense. In fact, only 18% of the students that hail from Suffolk County that take advantage of out-of-County tuition go to FIT, and yet, it's and almost 50% of our overall burden.

So if we took just 25% of that \$6 million, that would cover the additional cost that the college is asking for. So I would ask the college, put you guys in a little bit of a jackpot here, but if I can ask the college to join me in, you know, asking Albany to relieve us of this burden and either, A, reclassify FIT as not a community college; or B, at least say to us, "You are only responsible for paying for two years of the out-of-County tuition cost to FIT, not the entire four year scope of their program." And if you'd like, we can talk about that after the meeting. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That was good. Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Last question. Robert, I just want to know how much money would be required for us to fund to bring the college, to bring our contribution of funding to the college from 23.6%, I believe, to the 27% that supposedly is mandated? What is the dollar amount? Not what they are asking for.

**MR. LIPP:**

We'll try to do a calculation.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. Get it to me later. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Kevin Peterman, next up.

**MR. PETERMAN:**

Good afternoon. Kevin Peterman, I'm with the Faculty Association at Suffolk Community College. I do have a handout. First, I want to thank you for past support and also for your support on the capital projects. I know some of you have been out there to the new library at the Eastern Campus,

the Learning Resource Center. And all I can tell you is it really has made the campus a complete campus. And I really do appreciate that, and I know all of our faculty and students deeply appreciate your support.

I want to get back to some of the thoughts about having the State do more. In the handout that's being passed around, I want to point out that the State -- it's one thing for you to maintain your level of support, but what the State has been doing since 2008 is they've been decreasing their support. Something that you are shunned on, you can't do that. But in 2008, the FTE aid for the college from the State was \$2675. It's gone down, it's gone down. And now with the new compromise they just passed in Albany, our FTE aid is 2122, \$2122 per FTE. I can say it's about \$13 million cut over the last three years.

I'm not pointing out whether it's the Assembly, the Senate, the Governor, Democrat, Republican, I'm not talking shots at any particular party or institution or whatever. But it seems to me that if we could collectively try and work together to get the State to back to where it should be, maybe we can -- I know Ellen and I will be up in Albany in May trying to get some bills, some supplement aid restored, maybe if there's some increased revenue coming in that we can get some of that FTE aid restored. And I hope that we could work together to try to do that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Kevin, I think that's a great idea. I felt like we got thrown into that same ball pen that we were cutting back in that article. The tone of it was that we weren't --

**MR. PETERMAN:**

I didn't write the article.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I know that. I'm aware of that. But that makes sense. Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

By the way, just another little fact and figure. I know that our community college's tuition is \$3700 roughly. Based on this letter, it proposed to maybe go up to roughly \$4000. The per student out-of-County tuition cost to Suffolk County to those for FIT is roughly \$9000 per student.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Let's go get that FIT. Sounds great. Okay. Anyone else like to be heard in the open session. All righty. With that, we'll move to the presentation. Dr. Shaun McKay who is going to tell us how we made out with the State.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Good afternoon. And I want to thank you for allowing me to present the current state of financial affairs of the college. My name is Shaun McKay. And to my right is James Amoroso, he is the Vice-President of Finance Administration. To his immediate right is John Bullard, associate Dean of Finance at the college.

At Suffolk Community College -- and again, I want to thank you for giving us this audience. We continue to work towards enabling our mission to be realized. And as you know, as an open institution, our omission is varied. And we believe that we've done the exact charge of when it goes back to the moral act and it goes back to the Truman Commission and everything else. What we've done is basically fulfill the needs of this County in multiple different arenas.

What we did this past year, for example, with the assistance of each of you and your colleagues in the Legislature, we used a State study that enabled us to look at deferred maintenance. For the

first time in 50 years in the history of this college, we were able to address what we believe were immediate needs across the college.

As you know, the Ammerman Campus was the first campus that was established. The first building on that campus in 51 years is going to be -- it's in design phase right now, and I'll talk about it a little bit later on in the project. But imagine having a campus that already had buildings that were on that site that we had retrofitted to serve the needs of an educational institution, and 50 years later, we have not done one single repair work on those buildings, but for when there were emergencies that we had to go in every once in a while to try to repair. So the Science and Technology Building at the Ammerman Campus is the first new building on that campus since we've been established.

As you've heard before, the Learning and Resource Center, we've been before you several times, we've talked about the fact that there are only two study rooms in that library on the Grant Campus. It is not a library. It is a room within an existing structure. We have 9000 plus students at that location and only two study rooms. If you have a group assignment practical -- if the enrollment, as it has been increasing -- there's where they can go, no room for them to meet at all. That library also is only two computer labs for 9000. So this free-standing building will now enable us to now really serve the constituents and students on that campus.

Renovations, of course, will have to occur, because as we move into that new building, the location that it is currently in right now, we're going to move into a one-stop shop arena environment where we're going to have the registrar, the cashier, the bursar, student support services, counseling all together, because what we have now in the concert hall building, which I learned from colleagues, the basement used to be a morgue initially, we've turned it around into a counseling center. And when you have 9000 students and you have 200 attending, you know, the campus that day to come and get services, they're wrapped around the outside of the building, because you can't service all of the students. And then you send them from one office to another to another, and what happens, you lose the students along the way.

So that building, again, once we have the Learning Resource Center constructed, we're going to change that entire arena into a one-stop center so they can come in and go to the registrar, to the cashier, the counseling and all of those areas as well.

The Health and Wellness Facility out East. On the Eastern Campus where we have our farmers, our wineries, our hotels on the Eastern End, there isn't one location that you can hold a major convention that can be at least similar to what we have at the Grant Campus at the Health, Sport and Education Center. I believe that's an economic driver for the Eastern End of the Island. I believe also that we do have auxiliary revenues that we get from the Health, Sport, Education Center, because we do have health memberships for residents here in the County. And it's a reduced cost. It's not equal to what is being paid by a regular membership somewhere else.

So on the East End, there's a Y, but there's nothing else there. We do pay for students to take courses off the campus by utilizing those facilities out on the East End. This would give us the chance now to at least have that on-site right there on the Eastern Campus. When we do have the farmers that do hold their events on the Eastern Campus, they're in the corridors and some rooms. And you barely have room to really accommodate a large body out on the East End. This facility will provide us with that resource.

What did we do this past year? Well, as the enrollments were increasing, we immediately looked at class utilization; you know, in what areas, at what time of day, sequencing. On a Monday through Thursday if you try to get onto College Road to come to the campus, you would never make it on time. It's a two-lane road. And certainly, Ammerman Campus has 14,000 students. And I will

speak to the parking a little bit later on. But we have 3956 parking spaces on that campus for 14,000 students. There's no way possible that if we don't make alternative ways of trying to serve our students and find different time blocks that we can get 14,000 students a-- and all 14,000 do drive, by the way -- so the difficulty really is how do you them on to the campus safely and look at egress and getting them back and forth and getting them to the classes on time.

What we did, we looked at the classroom and we said, "Okay, fine. We'll work with the Faculty Association in a contract arrangement." We reopened the contract and we added two students to every section that was not remedial, that was not in a lab, because you have insurance regulations there. And later on we'll talk about what that resulted -- net result in regards to cost saving efficiencies and everything else. And we looked at every single classroom; psychology, history, all the foundation courses that would have 33 students as a baseline number, we made sure that we did carry those baseline of 33 and the plus students so you get 35.

We evaluated those courses to make sure that there was no academic implications in regards to the performance based on the plus two. And there was no statistical significant difference at all when we looked at the numbers by adding plus two to those classes that impacted student performance. There was none, it was negligible, there was nothing there, point zero one I think it was. So there's significant different there at all.

Recently I've also embarked upon what we call a discovery phase. For the first time in the history of the college, we are doing now an annual -- a major gifts effort in essence. We've met with 50 individuals throughout the County from Orient Point all the way down to -- I went to Melville too, by the way, to get to meet with individuals in the County, because we believe that we've got to find alternative sources of funding. So for the foundation, we're meeting with these individuals to say, you know, why Suffolk is an economic driver for this region and why your support of this college is important. So that's the philanthropic effort that we're doing right now. That will be launched very shortly, and you'll hear about that in the recent weeks to come. So we're in the initial silent phase at this point in time.

On a positive note, Middle States sent us a letter recently indicating that we've fully completed and are in compliance with regards to their visit with us last the time. And we have a letter on file saying we're no longer under warning at all, we've met all the requirements. Currently, there's a periodic review team that's meeting. There's a report due in summer of next year. So they're writing that report for us right now.

Of course, the Montaukett Learning Resource Center -- we spoke about that recently -- on the Eastern Campus. That's the first new building on the campus. Environmentally, it's on in line with the LEED certification, it's trending toward LEED Gold certified at this point in time. We talked before about what we've done with our nursing program. We are the largest in the state, of course. We have partnerships with at least eight hospitals where they will pay for the faculty and the students will have jobs when they get out and get into the nursing homes. We've done all of that.

Advanced manufacturing, we have worked with the local high schools looking at their curriculum, brining their faculty on-site, providing training for them, assisting them in regards to grants. And I know that right now there is one school district that had applied for grant funding and has built a simulation lab similar to what we have at the college. So those students, when they transfer to us, they'll come over with at least five college credits and go seamlessly right into the program without having any sort of hiccups along with the way. So we're working with the school districts as well.

On the federal grant portion, I am pleased to say that worked with our faculty on a \$2 million grant, which you awarded. I put the call out to the faculty, and in the summer, 2009, we had 80 faculty members show up to help write that grant. Subsequent to that, we realized by letter than we got

the grant. We scored 100% by the evaluators on that grant. We put a call to faculty again, 250 showed up to help us now implement the grant. Several weeks ago, we had Professional Development Day at the college, and we had over 850 individuals show up at that event and went into break-out sections on this exact same grant. It's the first time we've approached it that way with the faculty.

I will say that the outcomes you see here on the page, it talks about increasing student persistence and course completion and then retention. What drove us into this grant was we looked at all the courses that we had students getting Ds, Ws Fs and Is, incompletes, and we said: "Okay those are the foundation courses." There were 20 of them we saw that students were not persisting. We wrote a grant to address exactly that same area. So all the faculty who were involved and the staff who were involved will work now towards either getting learn repositories, virtual learning commons in a number of different areas as intervention. But most so, prior to intervention is to treat this ahead of. And that's what a Title 3 Grant will do going forward.

On a workforce development area, we've gotten a \$4 million -- for manufacturing -- grant award, and then \$2 million for renewable energy. That allowed us to train over 300 incumbents in over 100 companies across Long Island. We looked at enhancing technical skills, we looked at career ladder opportunities like you build on Long Island. We got a 41 million grant with them as well.

The Mechatronics, which I spoke earlier, which is again -- now we're trying to get at least ten of those academies in the high schools. Now, if we can replicate the one we have now, which is successful, in nine other districts, that will give ten school districts that we're going to have on board. And we are already working on that right now as we speak.

The Stay on Long Island Scholarship -- and, you know, Chairman, I want to thank you for being with us is at St. Joseph's when we had the launch there. I'll say that we had over 80 plus applicants who applied. Now, this was launched initially at my inauguration day when I mentioned to the presidents who were there, "If I was to send you students from my campus and you were to provide scholarships for them, that would help stem the outward migration of our top scholars and students here who would leave and not come back. Every president signed on.

In fact, we had so many applicants that I sent a second letter to say that, "Here's another group of students that met the qualifications, but we were limited in the number we can give you. How about you giving them some merit scholarship as well?" Well, this past week I started receiving letters from presidents where they've awarded every student I sent to them with additional merit scholarships. And they have indicated also that they may have the potential to get additional funding based on the Earned Family Contribution on the FASA form. That's a first for the County and for the college, because we understand parents, like we do, are working as hard as they can to pay tuition and fees.

I believe that this initiative will help keep some of the best and brightest right here on Long Island. They're paid for by the institutions that are receiving them. And then they can stay here and get jobs on the Island as well. So that's a new initiative. It's going very well. We're going to continue. We have nine institutions on board now. I know St. Joseph's, they award nine scholarships; NYIT, nine scholarships, and I can go on with a whole list. That was something that we did starting from the Inauguration Day.

As you can see from here, it says we've given one million dollars to date, and that just occurred. Now, think of this being compounded. The first year award -- that's for the first group -- is a two year award, so that number would double and compound for the next four and the next incoming class coming in for the fall, so you're compounding in. So that's you're looking at potentially upward of three to four million dollars by the next fall semester. And that is an agreement we have

in place signed by the institutions, and we are going to continue moving that forward.

At this point in time, we have -- when you look at what we have done regionally here and across the County, over 500 students, over 500, and over 275 companies who are involved in internships. It's a key part for our students, because when they get into these internships, they're getting, you know, training and life skills and job skills, because on their resume, as you know, if there's no experience, it's very unlikely that you will have an opportunity to gain gainful employment here in the County. So we're working on that as well.

On the green energy training, we have over \$1.8 million in DOL grants, and that's a collaboration with BNL as well. And I mentioned United Way earlier. There's a one million dollar United Way weatherization grant that we have collaborated on with them. We are also collaborating with Hudson Valley Community College for instructor training as well. And then we've worked with Tidewater in Virginia, and that's a \$988,000 grant, which we brought before you recently, and that was approved as well.

And apart from just being the largest college in the State of New York, I believe we are the best. The other part of it is this: You know, we were recently asked to spearhead a \$50 million grant initiative by the State. The Chancellor asked us to do that. So members of my staff are working with members of different campuses across the State. This is where dislocated workers, unemployed workers whose companies have moved overseas or abroad and people are employed, now will be retrained. And this is going to be a State-wide initiative. And Suffolk was chosen to be the principal investigator for the entire State. That's a first for the entire system. So there's a lot of work that we are doing now to try to advance the college in that area as well.

We are preparing students to do just more than getting jobs. It's be building careers, it's building a regions, it's economic revitalization. And I believe certainly it's to strengthen this region as an economic engine for the entire State. When you look at this chart, for example, in '06-'07, we were 21,000 students. In 2010, we are 25,240 students. This institution is not growing because it wants to grow. It's because the people understand the value of this institution and what we provide. And certainly, if you ask any home on Long Island if you know someone who's attended Suffolk or did you attend Suffolk, they'll say yes, most often they will. So certainly, we are an economic provider for the County. And I know you understand that, so, again, I won't drive the point home any more in that area.

But in looking ahead, you know, when I met with the Faculty Association, I met with my Board of Trustees and my staff, I said, you know, if by 2013 they're projecting that enrollment will be down in the high school and we're looking at mandatory course increases -- and later, we'll talk a little bit about that -- but you have health care, you have light, power, water, fuel. You know, all those areas are increasing, you know, simultaneously -- and they're mandatory costs, by the way -- how do we curb, you know, those mandatory cost increases if the State is cutting your budget or not funding you as full as they should and in the County area, we have not gotten any increase for the two years on the Operating Budget?

Well, we had to reopen our contract. And we sat and we worked very, very hard, and we were able to negotiate a contract with the Faculty Association and also the exempts, and we were able to give back to the institution. Now, we also looked at ways to find efficiencies in the system in a number of areas, whether it be through procurement or whatever it might be, but we found ways in the system to find efficiencies.

We also deferred, at the same time, computer purchasing and technology purchasing into future years, which means instead of being between three to five years, we're now between five to eight

years. So we've deferred those costs into future years. When you look at the value of what we present to the County, disproportionately when you look at what's happening here -- for example, retirement costs, we are projecting a \$2 million retirement cost over above last year; increase in health care expenses, \$1.85 million over last year; inter-fund transfers, 440,000; increasing contractual obligations, three million dollars, a subtotal of \$7 million, and the with the recent State reduction, additional State reduction of \$1.21 million, that leaves us with a gap of \$8.5 million currently over and above where we were last year.

Now, when you look at the reduction in State support from 2008 to 2009 -- the red bar is 2011 where we are moving into with the recent reduction. The blue is 2008, as you heard the Faculty Association mention before. The State is trending in the opposite direction beyond where they are in regards to the Charter and the requirement of the 40%, or in this case, they've moved totally away from that Charter.

What does that mean for Suffolk? We asked about how does that impact the institution. Well, the loss of State aid in '09-'10 resulted in \$2,200,000; in 2011, \$8,150,000; and '11-'12, three million for a total of \$13,753,000 over the three cumulative affect on the college. On the revenue, well, the students are currently, currently at 49% net cost of the operation of the institution. The County share, 24, and the State share, 27. That's currently where it is right now.

We are doing our part to maintain affordability. Our Board of Trustees understands and have worked very hard with us to mitigate those cost factors and to keep the costs down for our students. We've opened the contract, we've renegotiated, we done the give-backs, we've done the plus-two's, we've put OTPS, other than personal services, into future years, and we've done all of that. But still, we had an additional cut as well. So how do you mitigate for those costs when you're mandatory costs will increase yearly, even though we've brought those costs down at the college?

Well, we're still the second lowest administrative cost in the SUNY system. And there's a formula by which that is calculated, and the State system has that formula. We can talk about that in a few minutes. I mentioned the faculty contract where we got zero percent on COLA through 2013. The class sizes, we've saved about \$915,000 based on our calculations. And going forward in '10-'11, we're looking at about \$1.8 million.

With the AME, the recently settled contract, as you know, there's a lawsuit involved with that, and the settlement on that contract was negotiated with us being outside of that. But certainly, after the lawsuit, if we have to address the contract in it's tenants, the way it is now, that would require us to go back and retroactively find funding for that settlement back to January 1. So we have factored all of those things in as well. The contract with the Guild of Administrative Offices, that will begin shortly and eminently. And we will have a similar discussion about the obligation of that body to the institution and the deficits that we face.

Our full time employment level is back, it's at 2007 levels. Our board has said before this committee, and we have said it too, that we hope to have a 70/30% -- 70% of full time -- our day courses taught by full-time faculty and 30% by adjunct. Well, it's going the opposite way. You know, we have other 5 to 1500 adjuncts at the college right now. So that's going to opposite way, because, you know, the size -- the scope what we do. We've asked for full-time positions in the past, and they were not funded in the budget, so certainly, we have to staff the classes in some way. Our adjuncts are wonderful, you know. And I know you are one yourself.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**  
Go Team McKay.

**DR. MCKAY:**

But certainly our students need to have a full-time faculty to provide advising and offer guidance along the way, and that's part of the contract. Well, with the size of the institution now, there isn't enough faculty, even if you do the eight hours, to try to meet that need. Deferred procurement into future years, I mentioned that earlier. New York Power Authority, in 2010, we had a grant from New York Power Authority for \$5.5 million that would enable to us save \$311,000 annually in energy efficiencies. So we're finding alternative ways of getting funding.

So what are the goals of this budget? To remain affordable and accessible. That's part of the core mission of the Community College. We've got to respond to the emerging worker needs in the County and the region. We have to offer programs that would meet priorities for both local here and at the Statewide level. And then we have to respond to the change in demographics of the students. Right now, first-time full-time students coming into the college, over 60% require remediation.

So we are taking active steps in which to work on addressing those issues. At then, the same time, we have to retain a qualified faculty and staff, because folks are competing for the same resources that we have. And, you know, where there's talent, folks are going to come to the talent pool and try to recruit away from the talent pool. And then try to get the faculty to move from the Mid West to Long Island, the cost of living and taxes here certainly is, you know, not one of the positive negotiating tools that I have to bring a faculty across from the Mid West here to Long Island. So I want to keep the ones I have, and at the same time, try to find qualified workers that are here. But again, you need to have support within the budget to do that.

We talked before about fueling the economy and aligning ourselves with all of the regional priorities. Well, we meet with business and industry, and I've met with each of you individually, to talk about what we can do as a college differently or more efficiently or how we can respond to the need of your various districts. All of the area businesses we meet with either through the LIA, HIA. And we hold business meetings on our campuses. Our technical programs all do have advisory committees working with them. So they advise us in what's current and what is expected in regards to the technical programs.

And our goal is to keep families here on the Island. You know, our role as educational institution is to provide academic training, skills enhancement, life-transforming opportunities, but to help build families and stronger families. We believe that we've done that, because, for example, 90% of all new high-wage jobs require a college degree, 90%. So that means you're going to have to have at least an Associate's Degree and the Two Plus Two arrangements, which we have with a number of colleges to move you right through. And you'll be right here on the Island and work here, because, again, that's your tax base, and that, of course, fuels your economy as well.

I believe that, you know, while we're in challenging times, I believe that the college is of strategic importance to this body and of strategic importance to this County. I believe that all work as an institution -- first, we are meeting mission, because that's what we are charged to do. We're provide educational opportunities for all citizens. We hope to do that for more. We're expanding our partnership opportunities with many institutions across this County. We are enhancing access. The whole issue of access and affordability is at the core of the mission of what we do.

And at the same time, you know, we work very hard to hold down the cost of higher education. If you look around the State right now -- we did a State study recently -- several institutions are opposing tuition costs above 4000, not just Suffolk, many institution across the State. And that we can speak to a little bit later on.

But all in all, I believe, you know, what we do is to look at the operation of the college, look at the

value of the institution, talk and we to our residents and say, "Okay, how can we help? What areas are you looking at?" Nursing, we get 3000 applications for 300 spots. We've got HIT, Health Information Technology, you have Veterinary Science, you have all these other programs you can get into as well. So we do all that we can to try to move students through.

Now, when we talk about tuition, here's where we are in regards to tuition from 2006 all the way to 2010. When you look at the State chart I showed you earlier, it went from left to right. Now, this chart I'm showing you now, it's going from -- this chart now is from 3100 in 2006 to now at 3776. When you overlay the charts, the correlation between the two, one, funding is going down from the State and it's going the other way for the students. Certainly, we have done our best. When you look at the numbers incrementally, they were moving in a direction but at a smaller rate than the rate that we were getting reduced by the State. We cannot sustain that. One has to give. And that's what we're here to ask for your support today.

We've done all we can to diversify our funding base. Internal efficiencies, we've done all we can to find those. Cost avoidance and cost savings, we've done all we can to find those. Will there be more? Absolutely, because we're going to continue to look for those as we go forward. And we use technology even more. The total amount of grant, for example, that received at the college from 2005 to 2010 equates to about \$18 million. That's funding we got from the Federal Government that we wrote grants for to help do new things at the college. So we are diversifying our funding base.

On average, we get about \$3.6 million a year in grants at the college, on average. We're constantly looking for more ways and more grants that we can write to try to mitigate some of the costs. Just this past year, we secured \$4.6 million in Federal grants, just this past year. Our latest is NSF-STEM Grant. That we received -- that's the third we received at the college to date, and that's for \$600,000. And it provides opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematic areas. Those are areas we know across the State and also across the country where we need more students to get into those fields. At least now we can fund 30 NSF-STEM scholars annually via this grant.

We are going to continue to monitor all programs. And we're going to address the shrinking enrollment where there's shrinking enrollment. If there are changes in the job market, we'll monitor that as well. We're going to conduct more assessments for the economic vitality of our program. And we consistently look at our peers to see what they do across the State. It's important for us to be comparable to what's happening not only here in Suffolk, but looking across the spectrum to see how do we compete against the other institutions. And that's what we do constantly.

And, you know, the one thing with a community college is that we are flexible, we adjust along the way, you know. The college is nimble. But I think the other part of it though is that we are affordable, we are resourceful, we are available, and we can adjust our programs along the way.

The next year, we're going to have a very difficult time. Our resources are going to be limited, because we saw the \$8.5 million that we have over and above the negotiations we did with the contract. Enrollment demands, we don't know what that might be. We're projecting 2%. Others across the State are projecting less than that in their enrollment growth projections.

Our health care premiums are going to go up. You are looking at energy costs that may rise. As you know, right now, gas is about \$4 per gallon. Contractual salary adjustments, those are mitigated by the recent contract we had, because now there's two zeros and two twos on the back end. And then counseling, we were cited in Middle States to add more counselors per student ratio at the college, which we are attempting to do by shifting lines around, because we didn't have any

new lines in this budget from this body. And then parking, the only new project we've submitted was to help Ammerman Campus, because with 14,000 students, there's no way we cannot try to mitigate that issue. When you looked at a parking garage structure, that would have been 15 to \$25 million.

Well, we looked at -- if we do the whole parking itself and egress and look at safety and security, we could do the same thing for \$3 million for the same product versus 15 and \$25 million. So that's the only new initiative that was submitted to you in the Capital Program. We'll continue to assess all the programs. The one thing we have to be careful of is one-shot revenues. You put one-shot revenues into your budget this year, next year you have to find it somewhere, and it isn't there.

If enrollment does not peak as we expect in this case, certainly what will happen is that you will also have potentially a cut from the State, your one-shot revenue, and then at the same time, you'll end up with a structurally imbalanced budget at that time. What we are proposing to our Board of Trustees tomorrow are the following: In this scenario one with a State aid decrease of \$138 FTE and the County increase of 4%, which we've heard before is a \$1.5 contribution, the annual student tuition will be at \$190 full time and \$8 per credit part time, that's scenario one. Under scenario two, there's State aid decrease again of \$138 FTE, and if the County gives no increase in their funding to the college, the annual tuition will be \$250 full time for the year and \$11 part time for the credit. That, Ladies and Gentlemen, is our presentation. We're here to answer any questions that you may have.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Dr. McKay. We appreciate it. It was thorough as always. Nice to hear from you. I just had a quick question. I know I've got a number of Legislators that want to ask questions as well. But on the increase in numbers of students, that 2% that you are projecting, what does that look like beyond next year? Does it start to decrease with the enrollment in high schools in the next couple of years? I mean, is that -- is that what you're looking at? How far do you go out; five years? What does your projections look like into the future.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Let me add a statement to that. Not only here on the Island but across the State, they're projecting that by 2013, the number of high school graduates will go down. We are on the right side of that curve. In the mean time, you saw the slide that I have, there's several -- your health care costs, your energy, light, power, water, fuel, those are costs that you cannot just reduce. So these mandatory costs are going to be there anyway. So we'll have to find new sources of funding, we'll have to work together to try to mitigate some of those costs. The contracts that we've reopened and negotiated was an attempt to do the same thing.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Right. To back-end it. I understood that.

**DR. MCKAY:**

There you go.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Now, I'm not saying that your costs aren't going to be static and that you'll, in fact, rise over the next couple of years. I was just trying to project to the future your numbers, because that will reflect on a lot of things what revenue you're going to have coming in. Are you projecting beyond next year what you're saying you have a 2% rise into the future where it's going to actually start to decrease or anticipate a decrease? Where do you go five years from now? What does it look like in your projections?

**DR. MCKAY:**

We do -- it's a model that we look at that looks at employment factors, unemployment factors, high school graduation rate. It's a very complex model that looks at a number of variables. We can get back to you with the five year model that was recently developed. I believe we saw that as late as two weeks ago. So we can get back to you on that five year model.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Good. I saw the high school one. I went through that report. I think the Census Bureau was aiding it and stuff like that. I don't know where it actually came from.

**DR. MCKAY:**

But the model is trending the opposite way, you are right.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yeah. So I just wanted to see how that factors into your numbers of teachers and all those types of things you're going to have to be toying with as times go -- all those adjuncts, you know.

**DR. MCKAY:**

You also have to understand that the State -- no, not the adjuncts. Also on the other side, again, the adult learner, what we have seen also is a higher number of adult learners coming back to us to get a degree, to get retrained or they're changing careers in different areas. So we're working with a gamut. Then you have business and industry who are saying to us, "Okay, we want to have our employees come back, you know, and we want to have them go through as a cohort."

We also just created what we call the Early Morning, Evening and Weekend Programs. Early morning from 6:30 in the morning, evenings, and then you also have weekends. Well, that's being advertised right now because --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Is that the adjuncts, the 6:30 classes. I'm kidding.

**DR. MCKAY:**

But certainly, that's expanding the footprint of the institution to put us in a point where we can serve more students, because they're working more. What we see this year, we have more part-time students attending college this year than ever before. So now we're moving them into time blocks where we can have people that can attend -- of you're off and you work at night, you want to come in the morning or you want to come in the afternoon or on a weekend. Two years --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

So what you're saying is that because you might be attracting an older population or the offsetting numbers of lack -- less high school students may somehow mitigate that -- - that you may have a drop?

**DR. MCKAY:**

That's what we hope for.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's what you're hoping for. All righty. Thank you. I think the first one up is Lynne, Legislator Nowick. I'm sorry.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you. It was a great presentation. And I will have to tell you that I am a Suffolk Community College graduate. There was only one building when I went, but things have changed. Just one question, I noticed at the beginning of your presentation, you spoke about Middle States taking you

off the warning list, and one of the reasons had to do with counselors you said. What were the other reasons we were on the warning list?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Well, part of that was the fiscal autonomy of the Board of Trustees, that was one of them. Well, the County and the college at that time had -- Middle States found that the Board of Trustees at that time did not maintain full autonomy over the fiscal matters of the institution, and that was cited in the letter. That has since been settled and rectified. Middle States visited with the Chair and with the County Exec and several individuals in the county. And we've submitted follow-up reports on that as well. And they felt that the information we provided was sufficient enough. And the Commission voted recently to remove itself from warning.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So basically, it had to do with the Board of Trustees and autonomy, is that what you are saying?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Good morning, Dean. How are you there? I agree with Legislator Nowick, excellent presentation. Just a couple of quick questions. What are your reserves right now at the college?

**MR. AMOROSO:**

15.6 million.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Just getting back to the issue that we talked about earlier. You know, maybe not for you, but for BRO, I looked at the section briefly in the law, Section 6304, and there's no word "should" there, it's "shall." And I believe, for Counsels, has a totally different meaning. So it's something that I'm perplexed about in terms of your level of funding. You know, we can talk about that further at another time.

I just want to switch gears on your right now. There are one, two, three, four, five, six resolutions, I believe, that are out there for bonding improvements to the college; am I correct? Those were the ones that were vetoed. First they were introduced County Executive, they were pulled by the County Executive, reintroduced by Mr. Lindsay, and then passed, and now they've been vetoed. Are those resolutions resolutions that all involve State sharing of the cost? Are they all 50% State and 50% County?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Absolutely. And so you know, not all the community colleges in the State received matched funding from the State itself. We were one of the few.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

You submitted your proposals, and you were placed on this five year list, I understand, and your number has come up, ad that's why these resolutions were in?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Right. And if we don't have the appropriate -- you have to have the County appropriating resolution first and foremost before the State can even consider you. We had those. Now, they've been taken off the table. Now, it's very competitive now. We got included in the Governor's proposal for the first year of the deferred maintenance group. Now, of these projects itself, those are also in the State program. If these get pulled, very most likely what's going to happen is the state is going to turn to another college and award the other college that funding. So that's the risk of losing State funding for those projects.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. All right. There are some questions I had with respect to the funding, but we can deal with that at another time. Thank you for the presentation. You know, we're going to try to support the college as best we can. Just to preface this, when I went to school, when I graduated -- I am product of City University. I went to Bronx Community College and CCNY. And at Bronx, my tuition was \$38 a year and at City College, I paid \$54 a year. This was before the State decided I was -- otherwise -- and that's why I support the college -- I graduated in '68. When did you graduate?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

About the same.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

About the same. My point is that I am one that really thinks that the college tuition has to be as low as possible to give people like myself, first generation to attend college, an opportunity to do so. I feel that as we raise the tuition, we are locking out people that should not be locked out. And most of the people -- I've said this a thousand times to the County Executive and anyone else that will listen. Most of the people that -- most of the kids that graduate from school in my district, which is the Brentwood and Central Islip School district, when I ask them, "Where are you going to college," they invariably tell me they are going to Suffolk Community College because they have no other options.

And, you know, as we go up there -- and I am concerned about our lack of what I consider to be, based on what I have read, a noncompliance with our obligation as a County to provide adequate funding. Whatever happens at the State level, you know, is something we can discuss. The law seems to me very clear. And I don't want to turn this into a legal discussion, but the law seems to me very clear that obligations under our law should be met and are not being met. And I'm just curious as to why no agency, whether it be an association -- you know, is Suffolk the only college that's in this position, or is this an issue across the board across the State?

**DR. MCKAY:**

There are other campuses that are faced with different situations. We've got some colleges that are founded by -- funded by two counties. There's a whole host of different scenarios. But I think we were talking earlier, and I believe that if we were to be funded according to what the law requires, I believe that would require an additional close to about \$13 over and above where we are currently.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

From the State.

**DR. MCKAY:**

From the County.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Is that the number, Robert? By the way, again, I don't want to make this a legal thing, operating

but the law says that operating costs "shall not include debt service." So we can't factor that in. Robert, what's the number? Do you have a number for me?

**MR. LIPP:**

I have a number, but we're not sure if it's good.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Give me an estimate.

**MR. LIPP:**

We estimate around \$8 million, which would be about a 20% increase or so.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

And this has been built up over how long a period of time?

**MR. LIPP:**

As long as I can remember that we haven't had the one-third/one-third/one-third. That's just, you know, a piece of the State statute that hasn't happened. But what I will say though is we'll try to come up with a more accurate number. I understand where Dr. McKay is getting his number from, but we're looking at it a little differently. But we'll vet it out with the college and come up with a unified number. In any event, it's not a small number, obviously.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Thank you very much, Doctor. I appreciate you coming in.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Thanks, Chairman. A couple of observations and a question or two. First of all, great presentation, because it's a great college. And the college overall is doing great, great things. And that is a testament to staff, to certainly your leadership as well as to the faculty.

Peppered through your presentation was little tid bits of cooperation between the administration and the Faculty Association. And I wanted to commend you and I wanted to commend the Faculty Association for leadership in both of your areas for cooperating and working together in an understanding of the fiscal challenges that the college is facing and that we're all facing and making the college the best that it could be under challenging circumstances.

The fiscal challenges that you laid out that the college is facing are challenges that every government is facing, and certainly that Suffolk County is facing just, you know, ten or fifteen-fold. And I know you are cognizant of that as is everybody who works for the County, including the faculty. You know, certainly, we will do our best to -- and I think almost all of us really understand that the college is a terrific asset for the County. I know I do. So we look forward to working with you to try and, as you had done, cooperate find conclusion some of these challenges. With regard to my question, I think you said during your presentation that of 60% of your students require some sort of remediation.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Yes. Correct.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Have you ever tried to apply a cost factor to that fact?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Not directly. You know, we just recently did a study to look at if a student takes at least six courses in remediation, between three to 4% would graduate or persist. If they have one, it goes up to 40%. But we know what those courses are. But what we've done with the Title 3 grants was try to address that. But putting a cost factor to that, no, we have not, because again, when you look at a student who may be in remediation, for example, they may need to go to a lab, they may need to go to a counselor. You know, those are things that need to be tracked and timed. What percentage of hours per day go to that student in counseling and how do you compute that. It could get complex, but certainly we could take a look and see if we can get down to a cost factor there.

The one thing that we do, however, know is that you offer almost four thousand sections of courses. When we looked at the data, we had about a thousand sections in the area of remediation. So we did a pilot several years ago with a district, and we tested students in the junior year. It cost about \$10 for exam. And we gave the scores back to the schools and the superintendent and guidance officers to say if that student came to us today, here's where they will be and here's they're remediating; Math, English, Reading, Writing. Here's where they are. So that has begun the discussion.

The Chancellor will be down here next month meeting with all the superintendents and presidents on Long Island to talk about the exact same thing; about what we are doing as an education institution, which is getting students through the system and into jobs or transfers. So, yes, we can take a look at that to see if we can get to the cost, but I think it's going to be one that's a bit skewed, because you can't measure all of the variables to get to that one point.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So what was this year's entering class size? How many students total, roughly?

**DR. MCKAY:**

That's a number I'll have to get back to you on the entering. On average we get about 3800 students on average entering.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. So let's say 4000 students just for easy math. So of those 4000 entering students, 2400 need remediation.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Would take at least one remedial course or more, at least one or more.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right. So, you know, the extent of your efforts in terms of working with four-year colleges on Long Island, you know, maybe we also need to work with some of the high schools on Long Island and try and figure out how we can improve education at that level, at the high school level so that when students are entering our college -- I would imagine the same holds true although to varying extents obviously, with other higher learning institutions as well, because that is a staggering number, 60% of the students requiring some sort of remediation. I know as somebody who is involved in scholarships and looking at scholarship applications and reading essays of graduating high school seniors, the level of writing is not good in general. So, I don't know, if you can comment on that.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Let me also add that this is not just unique to Suffolk. I've seen nationally where other institutions

have a rate of as high as 80% remediating. Those are staggering numbers. The other side of the discussion really is when they do come to college, we get them to remediate and they persist, because, again, we have specialized services and support systems in place to help these students through. The problem is it takes time to degree because you have to get out of remediation, getting to college-level courses and then persist and then graduate. But our data shows that when we do intervene with those students, that they do persist and they get through, it just takes a little time to get the degree.

But we are not unique in this situation at all. On an island with 127 school districts, certainly each has a board, each has the Regents and the State Ed that you have to work with. And we have to work with every single district, you know? So certainly, through LIRACHE, which is a group of superintendents and principals and presidents, we meet together and we talk. And next month, we're going to have a discussion on the pipeline issue, which is, again, what's happening with the students where they are and taking them from where they are and getting them successfully through college and on to workforce careers or jobs.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Thank you.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Are there any further questions? Anything, gentlemen, you'd like to add?

**MR. AMOROSO:**

I'd like to give a different perspective. I've only been with the college about three months now, not even three months actually. And I came from the Merchant Marine Academy. I was there over there 25 years. And just to give you a different perspective, it kind of points to what Legislator Montano saying, based on the fact that at the Merchant Marine Academy, all of the students there are tuition free, all we charge is fees. And a slight increase in fees had restricted a lot of students from even applying to that school, believe it or not, without any tuition and all paid for by the Federal Government. So a slight increase to the tuition here from 190 even to the 250 is going to address that problem even more. It's going to exacerbate the problem of a lot of students being able to afford the tuition.

Just to give you a little more perspective, at the Merchant Marine Academy, which is all Federally funded, our budget there was approximately 80 to \$85 million a year, and that was just to cover about 950 full-time students. We're talking here of about 20,000 students at a budget of about \$192 million. Five percent of the enrollment of Suffolk Community College is what we had at the Merchant Marine Academy. So if you put it in perspective of what it really costs, because I think there was a comment made before of if enrollment goes down, how does that affect revenue. A lot of the costs of running the school are there anyway. And that's why the Merchant Marine Academy with 900 students cost \$82 million to operate.

So, you know, we are getting -- I think Suffolk County is getting a big bang for the buck for \$190 million. You know, every penny that the State or the County doesn't give us is going to impact on that tuition.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I appreciate those comments. And we recognize that any increase reflects back on the student, it's not a good thing. When I teach, I talk to kids, "Well, how many jobs do you have?" And everyone raises their hand when I say one job. Well, I say, "well, how many have two?" And you have half

the class saying they have two jobs on the outside. And then you'll get a few stragglers that say they have three jobs plus going to school. I recognize that. The question that we have in front of us as far as the overall picture is that this County has debts between 140-\$179 million for this next coming year's budget. How do we play that all out, and that's what the question is. We don't know. We're not going to give you answers today. We are recognized what you are faced against. We are as concerned about this as you are concerned about the students. They are our constituents. So that's where it's all at. And I appreciate having it all laid out to us, because that will get us to think. And we've got to start thinking before we make any final decisions on the County share here. But we do pressure it.

**DR. MCKAY:**

I just want to say thank you on behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the college. We know it's a difficult time in the County. And I'll just say that the -- the one thing I will leave you with, and I've always said this, through education comes economic revitalization and empowerment. Those are two powerful terms for this County. If we are going to be on the cutting edge or emerging or be in front of what we know -- and I don't want to use the word stagflation or inflation, but if we are going to have people here who can do the job that are skilled that did use education to help bring efficiencies to scale, this is the time to do it, because I will tell you this, with 26,000 students at this college, they're there for a reason.

When they leave that college, they're going out into the competitive world. They are tax-paying citizens and they're voters too. And these are people that we have; our nurses. You go to the hospital, any one of them, you will run into a Suffolk nurse who graduated. You know, you go into any tech firm around the Island, you'll meet someone from that company who graduated from Suffolk. So we are an economic driver. I know you know that very well. But we are going to continue to do that. We've been here 50 years and we'll be here 50 more. The challenges will certainly be with us, but it's how we respond to them and how we work our way through these difficult times. And I can assure you that we'll work together with you to get through this. Thank you.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you. All right. Let's move to the agenda. The Tabled Prime.

**1033, To terminate lease with Eastern Long Island Solar Project. (Pres. Off.)**

From what I understand, we are going to be tabling that today, that some of the issues that were before us on this -- on this project are almost in near -- near finalization and to the satisfaction of the Legislature now. So we're going to make a motion to table by Legislator Stern, second by Legislator Montano. On the motion.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

On the motion. I had a question. Is there a work stoppage order on the work being done at the Brentwood Train Station or the other projects? Joe, did you want to answer the question? I don't want to belabor this. I don't want to get off --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I don't want to belabor it either. Is there a work stoppage order on this.

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

There was a work stoppage order on it. I did pass by there earlier today. There was a crew on the

property into one of the vertical supports in Brentwood. I haven't received any word from DPW that they've resumed work there, but obviously they were there working today.

**AUDIENCE MEMBER:**

It was lifted.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

It was lifted, the work stoppage order. Do you know when it's going to be complete? You know, what? We are going to table this. We will get back to this.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Seconded by Legislator Montano.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Wayne.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. Cilmi, I didn't hear you.

**LEG. CILMI:**

That's all right. At the behest of the Chair, we can wait to the next meeting, if that's what we need to do given the time, but if you recall, I had asked at our last meeting if the County Executive's Office could update us on the status of this entire project given its lateness as it is. Again, if they are here to do that know and it's okay with you. Unless it's brief.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Lisa, is it brief? What do you know and when did you know it?

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

Hi. I'm Lisa Broughton, I'm the acting Energy Director. The project did not move as quickly as was laid out when the Legislature first heard about it. There have been a couple of different issues that were unanticipated. I think I would like to bring you back to summer of 2008, Legislator Horsley was there, and we had made a policy decision to be part of the LIPA RFP to induce economic development, job development, and to be part of a he solar project. It's all new. And, yes, there have been delays in starting. But the stop work orders have been lifted. Other issues, I believe the Chairman said, have been resolved and --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

To my understanding, there's a project labor agreement that's in the work.

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

Everything is moving forward on that front. So we expect work do be done in Brentwood in the next six to eight weeks and for other sites to be done in the summer.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Cilmi, did you have any further questions on that?

**LEG. CILMI:**

So your estimating completion at the end of the summer, do you think, or this year some time?

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

Not at all sites.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Not at all the sites.

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

I believe that we'll be finished in Brentwood in six to eight weeks and that they'll be engineering sites they'll be moving from site to site probably through next year.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Weren't they going to work on all those sites concurrently? Originally, this was supposed to be completed, I think, last April or started last April and completed within a year or something, no?

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

No. They optimistically had told us that they would starting generating power in the spring of 2011 and that's not happening. It will be late spring for Brentwood. I think they did have an aggressive timetable, and that again, there were two issues; there was a labor issue that has been eluded to, and there's also been some engineering issues that were unanticipated, things that nobody saw back then that have come up, just basic engineering issue.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Was the County entitled to any remedy as a result of their optimism.

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

The County has not been harmed. We're had pre-operating payments that they were required to make and they have been making to us. So we've already made somewhere in the order of \$90,000 on our parking lots. I personally can't find a better deal for what we can get for a parking lot, the space above a parking lot. If there is one, I'd be glad to hear about it. So that's with no work being done, we've had revenue coming in. The revenue from Brentwood will come in as soon as they generate the power from that.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Right. Cause in Brentwood all we have are poles in the ground. We don't have anything other than pieces of steel sticking out of the parking lot. And you say that that's going to be -- that project is complete in six weeks?

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

Yes.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

What project is next? What location is next.

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

Cohalan was scheduled. And they're concurrently engineering for North County. You so I'll be very pleased when you as Legislators can look out as consider yourself one of the greenest Legislatures in America.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Well, they are both in my district. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

We're good? Excellent. Thanks, Lisa. Like the glasses. We didn't vote that. We have a motion to table. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

**1268, Authorizing the creation of a utility easement for use by LIPA and National Grid for service to the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station at the DPW Highway Maintenance Garage at Westhampton Airport (Gabreski Airport). (Co. Exec.)**

I will make a motion to that, Legislator Stern seconds. Anything on the motion? Okay. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1279, Accepting and Appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Neighborhood Stabilization grant and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements. (Co. Exec.)**

Motion by Legislator Cilmi also to put on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED and PLACED on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1294, To appoint James J. Cassara as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Lindsay)**

Is James here? No James. Paul, do you know --

**MR. PERILLIE:**

They reached out to him, but they didn't hear back.

So we have a motion to table. Oh, wait a minutes. I did hear something about this. Can we discharge without recommendation.

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion to discharge without recommendation.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Second by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **DISCHARGED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1297, Approving the change of project location for Downtown Revitalization Round V for the Lindenhurst Chamber of Commerce and amending the contract with the Village of Lindenhurst to reflect same. (Co. Exec.)**

This is something that's in the works. I'm going to ask to have this tabled for just this one time. It's my understanding that there was a funding issue that goes back to the original funding. And they're going to straighten that out. So I will make the motion to table, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1299, Authorizing the execution of an environmental easement and other documents with respect to the Voluntary Cleanup Agreement for Francis S. Gabreski Airport, Airport Development District. (Co. Exec.)**

I will make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).** I think that's it. Motion to adjourn.

(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:33 P.M. \*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY