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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Legislator Monica R. Martinez Reads to Central Islip Elementary School Classrooms

(Central Islip, NY); Legislator Monica R. Martinez participated in the Central Islip School District' Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program on February 16 and March 9, 2017. The PARP program encourages parents to take an active role in their child's literacy education by reading with them for at least fifteen minutes a day. The Central Islip School District invited parents of the students as well as local community leaders to read to elementary school classrooms.

Legislator Martinez read *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams to a Cordello Elementary School classroom and *The Cow that Went Oink* to an Andrew T. Morrow Elementary School classroom. *The Velveteen Rabbit*, one of the Legislator favorite books of all time, chronicles the story of a stuffed rabbit and his desire to become real. *The Cow that Went Oink* tells a story of a pig that moos, a cow that oinks and their dedication to teach the other how to make their appropriate sound. According to the Legislator, both books convey extremely valuable life lessons characterized in a playful, yet thought-provoking way.

Legislator Martinez believes literacy is one of the most important, if not the most important, aspect of a student's early education. It is absolutely critical that elementary students are given adequate opportunity to learn how to read. "The PARP program is an excellent way to involve parents/guardians in the educational process and success of their child's learning," stated Legislator Martinez.



Legislator Martinez at A. T. Morrow Elementary



Legislator Martinez at Cordello Elementary