



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jack M. Martins

Senator Martins Takes Tour of Floral Park Memorial High School, Holds Listening Session

JACK M. MARTINS June 6, 2011

| ISSUE: **EDUCATION**



Senator Jack M. Martins continued his listening tour throughout the 7th Senate District and visited Floral Park Memorial High School. Senator Martins was greeted by Floral Park Memorial High School Principal Kathy Sottile and School Trustees Dave Fowler and Laura Ferone for the tour and listen session. The Floral Park Memorial High School tour comes on the heels of Senator Martins' community office hours and "Town Hall Style Discussion" at

the Floral Park Library just a few weeks ago.

The tour began with an open ended discussion between Senator Martins, teachers, Trustees Fowler and Ferone and Principal Kathy Sottile. During the discussion, issues centering around mandate relief, local property taxes, education, community needs and student achievement were talked about.

“Our meeting was not only productive and proactive, it was a great way for me to hear what’s happening at Floral Park Memorial and the greater community,” said Senator Martins adding, “Dave Fowler and Laura Ferone have been great partners with me in helping us fight for critical aid to our schools. Sessions like these give me unique perspectives and help me advocate for our communities.”

Soon after the roundtable discussion, Principal Sottile led Senator Martins on a tour of the building and grounds where students, educators and community members talked about their work and hopes for the future. In addition, Senator Martins was given a briefing on the athletic fields, computer facilities and fine arts at Floral Park Memorial.

At the end of the tour, students at Floral Park Memorial performed a “mini-musical assembly” for Senator Martins that featured the string orchestra, jazz band and chorus. The Assembly was attended by students and faculty.

“The Music department at Floral Park Memorial is truly sensational. The performances by the students were outstanding and you could see how much time, effort and energy they put into music, fine arts and education. It’s truly a sight to see and experience. I was very proud of all of them and honored to have been able to see them perform,” concluded Senator Martins.

Senator Martins tour of Floral Park Memorial High School is part of a series of community listen sessions and visits to programs, services and “Town Hall Style” meetings he has held in the 7th Senate District. Local tours have taken Senator Martins to the Floral Park Library, the Floral Park Reliance Engine Patriot Ceremony, South Floral Park Armed Forces Day and Community Office hours in the Village of Floral Park.