As legislators begin working on their One-House Budgets we ask for your continued advocacy for Funding Parity tied to continuing:

- OPERATIONAL SUPPORT;
- ANNUAL EDUCATION INCREASES and
- INVESTMENTS IN DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

After six years of frozen funding and deferred maintenance, an investment in the health and safety of our facilities is critical. The 4201 Schools Association recommends that the 2016-17 State Budget include an investment of $11 million to support deferred maintenance for projects that enhance safety, improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.

HERE ARE A FEW SPECIFIC FACTS THAT SPEAK TO OUR INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS:

- The Cleary School was founded in 1925; and today, continues to be located on a five acre campus that incorporates the Cleary family’s original residence and provides a physical connection to the home that was constructed approximately 100 years ago.

Among the school’s operational objectives are to enhance the energy efficiency and comfort in buildings across the campus by enhancing the R-values of the building envelope. Project priorities involve phased replacement of windows, doors, and hardware; and incorporation of appropriate insulation in walls, ceilings and crawlspace.

- During 2014-15, its combined energy costs for electricity and oil were $123,000.

- Cleary’s current heating system is supported by three oil tanks, two below ground tanks totaling 4,000 gallons; and an additional above ground tank with a capacity of 1,000 gallons.

- The oil-based heating and hot water system dates to 1997 and requires frequent repair. A new natural gas unit would carry an enhanced energy efficiency rating of 95 percent.

- The Cleary Nesconset community includes approximately 60 deaf students and staff. In the event of an emergency, or the need to immediately shelter in place we are relying on inadequate public address equipment to alert persons in the building that are hearing – however, we are currently unable to instantly communicate directly with the entire community. Our priorities include emergency notification and display panels.