



March 2022

Carla Simpson-Boakye
Chair, Suffolk Region PTA – Family Engagement
familyengagement@suffolkpta.org

Greetings,

As we approach the end of the school year, a reminder for all parents getting involved in their local school district budget process. Districts are required to present in a public manner through the BOE on the 2022-2023 school year budget. Most if not all districts are taking it a step further and conducting these presentations at the applicable March/April/May PTA meetings. If this is not the case for your district, I would implore our local units and/or PTA Councils to invite a budget process meeting to take place during a PTA meeting as it is another opportunity to engage with the community and answer questions.

Secondly, school board elections are in the beginning phases as candidates were invited to contact the district clerk for a petition to run for office on March 1st. Let's encourage our parents to take an active approach in the campaign of the candidates for each district. In light of the political climate we are in surrounding the pandemic, DEI and curriculum decisions, some of more of the school board elections will be more detailed and accessible to all parents more so than the campaigns may have been in the past. It is imperative we all have a seat at the table to hear from all candidates and educate our families on the stance and value any candidate will bring to the table for the benefit and future of our schools for our children. To that end, we encourage local PTA units and Councils to send reminders for the Meet the Candidates Night taking place at your district and familiarize yourself with the issues and candidates that will be on the slate. If possible, a suggestion to local units and Councils to invite all candidates to speak at a meeting ahead of the District-wide Meet the Candidates Night to introduce themselves, their reason for running for office and what each candidate hopes to achieve if elected.

New York State School Boards Association puts together a great timeline on the budget and school board election process – one can access this timeline [here](#).

Last but certainly not least, let's encourage our parents to turn their attention to secondary school children's schedule selections for the '22-'23 school year and encouraging parents to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Simpson-Boakye
Family Engagement Chair