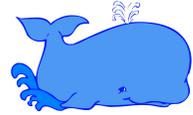




Carla Simpson-Boakye
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair
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Report as of August 31st, 2022

Hi! My name is Carla Simpson-Boakye. I reside in Hauppauge NY and serve as PTA President at my daughter, Ava's elementary school. I am heavily involved in the community across Suffolk County and I own a real estate investment and property management firm. I've worked in real estate or over 20 years in various capacities

I'm passionate about DEI initiatives in our schools -- more importantly I'm passionate about DEI of us all working together to implement DEI initiatives as when there isn't agreement on why these initiatives are needed or what they should try to accomplish, implementation is even more challenging.

The racial reckoning of the last year has caused many schools to reexamine their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies and priorities. Often, one of the biggest challenges that schools face in doing this work is getting their entire faculty and staff on board. For DEI work to be systemic in schools, schools need to establish professional learning communities (PLCs) working together to tackle the most pertinent items in their school context. But this type of work isn't easy. I have personally witnessed faculty meetings erupting in anger around race and privilege when conversations weren't framed respectfully and agreements were not made beforehand by each of the participants. Although it's normal for difficult conversations to create tension and discomfort, I don't believe there's ever a place for us to break collegiality by harming others with our words. It doesn't create healing or get us closer to the purpose of DEI.

Please reach out to me with your thoughts, questions, challenges or concerns. I am eager to work with you all in the various school environments across Suffolk County – I am here to be a resource and perhaps sounding board. Please email me – diversity@suffolkpta.org. Please also take some time to review the NYS PTA DEI page listed below. There is DEI Toolkit with a wealth of information and a myriad of resources that are updated on a consistent basis.

<https://nyspta.org/home/programs/diversity-inclusion-equity/>