

Suffolk Region

PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.[®]



Gerard Bringmann
Associate Director- Coordinator of Advocacy
gerardbringmann@gmail.com

Board of Managers

January 2023

Our newly elected State Senators & Assemblymembers began this year's Legislative Session earlier this month. It is important that all of our PTA Councils here in Suffolk have a Legislative Advocacy Chairperson in place to keep the Council and the individual PTA units within their district informed of the latest developments in Albany. This Chair should also be reaching out to the State Senator & Assemblymember that represents their district to open up a line of communication. In the event there is no Legislative Chairperson, the Council President should fill this role or delegate to their Vice President.

In order to become familiar with PTA Positions on Legislative matters, the Chairperson and/or Council President/Vice President should read this year's edition of "Where We Stand" on the NYS PTA website. It would also be a good idea to attend NYS PTA's Virtual Legislative Summit scheduled for the evening of Weds. Feb 15th (I will provide more details on this event, as soon as they are received).

Another important event that your Council should send a representative to, if at all possible, is the Longwood Legislative Breakfast on the morning of Sat. Feb 4th. There will be a wealth of information shared regarding the State of our Schools here on Long Island that will be critical for us to have in order to be effective advocates for our schools and our children.

It was reported in Newsday last month that NY Schools have only spent about 20-25% of the Federal Covid Relief Funds they received, as of last October (2022). It would be greatly appreciated if our Council Chairs could consult with their respective Superintendents and see where there is districts are percentage wise and what obstacles they may have faced (or are facing) in trying to get this money spent.

In closing, while I'll be serving as the Legislative Advocacy Chairperson for this year, it's not too early for me to start looking for my replacement for the 2023-24 school year. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the position, please let me know, as it would be my pleasure to start breaking in next year's Chair, so he/she can hit the ground running in September.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Bringmann