

## Suffolk Region



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### **Legislative Advocacy Report – May 11, 2020**

There is not too much to report again this month legislatively, due to the Coronavirus Situation, which has severely limited governmental meetings. However, there are still a few updates & developments of interest to report on the New York State & Suffolk County levels:

On the New York State level:

- The Governor's Office just issued a report saying that because of the pandemic's economic impact, the State budget, which has been in effect for just over a month, is now obsolete. Should the Governor order spending cuts, which is extremely likely, State Legislators have ten days to make any changes in where the cuts take effect. The 2020-21 budget, as adapted, gives the Governor the power to cut spending up to four times this year based on the State's financial condition.
- While the Governor has cancelled "in school" sessions for the balance of the school year, Summer School is still a possibility, albeit a remote one. August Regents Exams have already been called off.
- School Board Elections have been set for June 9<sup>th</sup>, by absentee ballot only, using postage paid envelopes provided by local school districts. Candidates for School Board Elections do not have to submit petitions this year, merely submit their name to the School District Clerk. Candidates must meet the standard school board requirements of being 18 yrs. of age or older and meeting the residency requirement.
- Governor Cuomo announced that New York State will be collaborating with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on a plan to "re-imagine" education moving forward with more use of technology. Blueprints for this plan have yet to be developed, but an Advisory Council of Educators & Stakeholders has been appointed to begin this task. We will be represented on this Council by Kyle Belokopitsky, the Executive Director of the NYS PTA.

On the Suffolk County level:

- There are a few bills being considered regarding the County's Child Protective Services Division. A public hearing on these bills is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>, which will be conducted via Zoom. Anyone who would like to make a public comment may sign up on the County Legislature's web site.
- The County's Anti-Bullying Task Force is wrapping up their work and will be issuing their report prior to the upcoming school year.

- A “request for proposal” is in the process of being issued for the School Bus Camera Program with hopes of securing the appropriate vendor later this year.

As always, should anyone wish to get in contact with me regarding any Federal, State or County legislative issues, please know the best way to get in touch is via email. My email address is [gerardbringmann@gmail.com](mailto:gerardbringmann@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted ... Gerry Bringmann