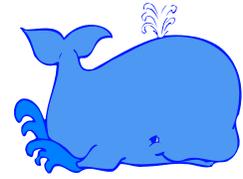


Suffolk Region PTA



Stephanie Gurin
Legislative Chair – Advocacy Team
legislativeadvocacy@suffolkpta.org
516-236-2781 - cell #

NOVEMBER REPORT

Parents Concerned Over Crossing Guard Cuts

The Lindenhurst School District is warning that many crossing guard posts will no longer be covered due to a shortage of crossing guards in Suffolk County. According to a letter from the Superintendent of Lindenhurst schools, many posts will no longer be covered because of a shortage of crossing guards in Suffolk County. The letter to the Lindenhurst school community reads in part, "In our area, the Suffolk County Police Department's First Precinct has found it necessary to eliminate most high school posts along with the posts they feel are too far away from schools, or where the volume of students has significantly reduced." According to the letter, eliminating most of the high school guards will ensure sufficient coverage at the elementary and middle schools.

Parents of students at Lindenhurst High School are upset to find out the crossing guards for students will be eliminated at the school. They hope local and perhaps even state lawmakers can do something about the crossing guard shortage and any changes that might happen to the posts. Suffolk police say they're in the process of hiring school crossing guards and reviewing school crossing posts. However, the department says no crossing guards have been eliminated at this time.

Hauppauge Residents Vote Against Referendum

Hauppauge residents voted against a referendum to sell their administrative building, which was formally the Whiporwil School that was shut down decades ago. The developer planned to build housing for the 55 and older community.

The vote was overwhelming against selling the building - 1293 voted no, to the 294 who voted yes.

“Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate” Vaccination Incentive Program for 5 - 11 Year Olds

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced new efforts to support vaccinating 5 to 11 year olds, including the launch of a new vaccine incentive program - 'Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate' - for young New Yorkers. Parents and guardians of children ages 5 through 11 who receive their first vaccine dose by December 19th can enter the State's incentive program for a chance for their child to win a full scholarship to any two or four year SUNY or CUNY college or university. The scholarship includes tuition, room, and board. Ten winners will be announced each week beginning November 24th, with a total of 50 winners being selected over the five-week period.

Winners of the State's incentive program will receive two or four years of full-time study in any SUNY or CUNY Associates or Bachelor's degree program, which includes the following:

- **Tuition:** The full cost of in-state tuition at a New York State or City University.
- **Non-tuition Costs:** Room and board and allowances for books, supplies and transportation up to the average cost at SUNY colleges.
- **Residence:** Students living on campus will receive a higher room and board allowance than commuter students. If housing is not available for students on campus, they will receive the same allowance as students living on campus

In order to be eligible, children must be between the ages of 5 to 11 and be residents of New York State. Pursuant to federal law, children must be lawful permanent residents or U.S. citizens in order to be eligible. Federal COVID-19 relief and outreach funds will be used to cover the cost of this vaccination incentive program.

On November 2, 2021, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommended that children 5 to 11 years old, be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine.

Suffolk County Election Results

Republicans won key races in Suffolk County, including the seat for District Attorney. Ray Tierney, who was an assistant DA in Suffolk County and then a federal prosecutor, beat incumbent Democrat, Tim Sini. Republicans also took control of the County Legislature, where they went from a 10 - 8 minority to a 12 - 6 majority. Republicans also scored a big win in the town of Huntington, winning the supervisor seat and town board. Suffolk Sheriff Errol Toulon was one of the few Democrats left standing. He won reelection to a second term.

For a recap of the election results, click the link below:

<https://longisland.news12.com/vote-2021-recap-what-happened-around-the-tri-state-on-election-day>

Governor Hochul Signs Legislation Expanding New York State's Paid Family Leave

Governor Kathy Hochul signed a bill (S.2928-A/A.06098-A) that expands New York State's Paid Family Leave legislation to allow caring for siblings. Under the current law, employees cannot take leave to care for a sibling with a serious health condition.

This bill builds upon the Paid Family Leave legislation that was enacted in 2016, which created one of the most comprehensive paid family leave programs in the nation. In effect since 2018, New York's Paid Family Leave program is employee-paid insurance that provides workers with job-protected, paid time off to bond with a newly born, adopted or fostered child; care for a family member with a serious health condition (which may include severe cases of COVID-19), or assist loved ones when a member of the family is deployed abroad on active military service. Paid Family Leave may also be available in some situations when an employee or their minor, dependent child is under an order of quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19. Eligible workers may take up to 12 weeks off at 67% of their pay (up to a cap) to care for family members in times of need.

Currently, Paid Family Leave family care covers caring for spouses, domestic partners, children and step-children, parents, parents-in-law, grandparents and grandchildren with a serious health condition. Through Legislation S.2928-A/A.06098-A, the definition of "family members" expands to include siblings. This includes biological siblings, adopted siblings, step-siblings and half-siblings. These family members can live outside of New York State, and even outside of the country. The bill will go into effect on January 1, 2023.