



Half Hollow Hills
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meet The Candidates

www.hhh.k12.ny.us

May 2023

Dear Community Members,

The following biographical information, as submitted directly from candidates for the Board of Education Trustee election on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, is being presented to the residents of the Half Hollow Hills Central School District as a community service. The purpose of this publication is to provide background information on the candidates so residents may make informed decisions in the election.

Each candidate has been allowed equal space, with the option of including a picture; the material has been printed exactly as provided by the candidate. The biographies are placed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. The order has been determined by lottery.

Candidates will be seeking three Board Trustee positions. These positions are presently held by incumbents Diana Acampora, Betty DeSabato and Michael Prywes. The candidates for the Board of Education Trustee election are Diana Acampora (incumbent), John Mathew, Todd Baker, Frank Percoco and Michael Prywes (incumbent).

The Half Hollow Hills Board of Education

David Kaston, *President*
Diana Acampora, *Vice President*
Betty DeSabato
Eric Geringswald
Stephanie Gurin
Adam Kleinberg
Michael Prywes

In compliance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, election information is offered in English and Spanish.

**SCHOOL
BUDGET VOTE
AND
TRUSTEE
ELECTION**

**TUESDAY
MAY 16, 2023**

7 AM - 10 PM

**HIGH SCHOOL EAST
GYMNASIUM**

Half Hollow Hills
Central School District
525 Half Hollow Road
Dix Hills, NY 11746

Board of Education
David Kaston, President
Diana Acampora, Vice President
Betty DeSabato
Eric Geringswald
Stephanie Gurin
Adam Kleinberg
Michael Prywes

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Patrick Harrigan

Non-profit Org.
US Postage
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Permit No. 12
Huntington Station, NY

RE-ELECT TO THE HALF HOLLOW HILLS SCHOOL BOARD



VOTE

TUESDAY May 16, 2023

Personal

District resident for over 33 years
Married 35 years

Two Children – High School West Graduates
2014 Villanova University
2017 Bentley University

St. John's University, B.A. Speech
Pathology/Audiology
Queens College, Master's Program Speech
Pathology

Founder/President – Acampora Concussion
Awareness Foundation

Community Involvement

- Board of Education Trustee since 2011 and current Vice President for two years
- Chairperson - Board Transportation, Health and Safety Committee
- Member - Board Facilities, Policy, and Legislative Committees
- Lobbied Albany for additional State Aid
- Member of Closing the Achievement Gap Committee
- Member of Districtwide School Safety Team
- Developed the Districtwide Transportation Manual for Parents
- Active supporter of the American Red Cross

DIANA ACAMPORA

School districts face new challenges involving education, emotional, and safety issues. Despite all of those challenges, HHH has been named the #1 School District in Suffolk County for the second consecutive year. During my time on the Board of Education we have increased student enrichment programs, partnered with Northwell Health to access mental health services for students, and installed automatic classroom door locks and emergency 911 phones in all classrooms. Cybersecurity protocols have been updated and improved. But, there is so much more that we can achieve with the right team. As BOE Vice President, I am privileged to work with focused and dedicated professionals whose goal is to provide cutting edge education to our children. I remain committed to the HHH community and to upholding and improving its stellar reputation. I would be honored to serve this community for three more years.

Recent Achievements

- #1 School District in Suffolk County 2023 (niche.com)
- HSW and HSE ranked #1 and #2 High Schools in Suffolk
- Full day Universal Pre-K
- Districtwide Maker Space and STEM initiatives including engineering and robotics clubs
- Planetarium renovation
- Fiscally responsible Cooperative Bid Programs
- New primary level phonics program
- Social and emotional learning for students and mental health initiatives including the Hills Academy and Elementary Connects
- AP Capstone Program for High Schools
- Seal of Civic Readiness Program
- Revitalized Continuing Education offerings for senior citizens
- Cooperative security drills with the police and fire department
- Updated athletic fields, tennis courts, tracks and the natatorium

What's Next

- Science research experiences for middle school students
- Encourage students to enter Education and STEM careers
- New visitor management systems and vestibules in all buildings
- Violence Prevention Training for faculty
- Increase AED visibility in all facilities
- Narcan training to faculty and staff

ELECT TO THE HALF HOLLOW HILLS SCHOOL BOARD



DR. JOHN MATHEW, D.O.

✦ LEADERSHIP ✦ FOCUS ✦ INTEGRITY ✦ COMMITMENT

PERSONAL

- Married 19 years
- Melville resident 8 years
- 3 children: Grades 9th, 6th & 4th
- High School East, West Hollow and Sunquam
- NYIT B.A. Life Sciences
- Medical Degree: NYCOM

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Medical missions with pediatricians for Central American children and Set Beautiful Free (fighting human trafficking)
- Coached basketball in Dix Hills and Spartans Basketball Leagues
- Suffolk County marathon medical team
- Hope Day medical team
- Fundraising events for Set Beautiful Free and Medical Staff Golf Outing

PROFESSIONAL

- Board Certified Emergency Physician
- Associate Chief Medical Officer St. Joseph Hospital
- Associate Chief Medical Officer and a founding partner of Progressive Emergency Physicians
- Director of Emergency Medicine St. Joseph Hospital
- Medical Staff Board Member St Joseph Hospital (Treasury and Secretary)

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Active shooter drills and education
- NYC Medical Reserve Corps
- EMS Education and Directorship
- Covid-19 Preparedness and Response team
- Community Education - Stroke, heart disease, First Aid, geriatric care, pediatric care, and Covid-19

MY COMMITMENT TO YOU

- Be available and committed to all residents
- Support and fostering of academic, art and athletic excellence
- Promote and ensure the safety of our children in the district
- Be cognizant of tax dollars and its use for our district schools
- Lobby and work with our School Board team for state aid and reduction of tax burden for our district
- Support STEM, Special Education, Rising Stars, Family and Consumer Science, and AHAP programs
- Provide leadership by applying my background in medicine, hospital and private business operations/administration, to focus on the advancement of education, health, security of our children and the future of the district.

Todd Baker is a 20-year resident of Dix Hills, NY. During that time, he and his wife, Dr. Heidi Levine-Baker, raised three children who received their K-12 education through the Half Hollow Hills Central School District.

One of Mr. Baker's first jobs out of college was as a substitute middle and high school teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District. He was also an adjunct professor at New York University, School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Mr. Baker strives to integrate that experience as an educator into his volunteer activities with the fire department and his profession as a television and film producer.

The past 26 years of that career include such notable productions as the educational animated series "The Wonder Pets" on Nick Jr., "Escaping Alaska" on TLC, "Grammy: Red Carpet Live" on CBS, "The Global Citizen Festival," "The Big Idea with Donny Deutsch," "The Nick Cannon Show" on Nickelodeon, and many others. In addition, he formed an all-female auto race team for his MTV pilot "Built for Speed."

Since 2008, Mr. Baker has been an active volunteer firefighter with the Dix Hills Fire Department. He recently added fire police duties to his firematic activities. In 2017, he and Fire Commissioner Todd Cohen co-created Long Island's first Junior Firefighter summer camp for children ages 10-14. In association with the Dix Hills Fire Department and the Town of Huntington Parks and Recreation Department, they designed the endeavor to teach children about our local emergency services and instill a sense of community service.

Mr. Baker holds a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University. He is also a Producers Guild of America member and formerly part of its east coast steering committee and the chapter's Co-Chair of Recruitment and Membership.

The decision to run for a seat on the Board of Education for the Half Hollow Hills Central School District resulted from a desire to give back. Those efforts began in 2017 when Mr. Baker and his wife proposed an educational concept to Superintendent Dr. Patrick Harrigan. That discussion prompted the administration's exploration, development, and creation of a related plan that ultimately resulted in the Hills Academy.



Hi, I'm Frank Percoco

I'm running in the Half Hollow Hills School Board election and I need your vote!



WHY I'M RUNNING

- Ensure students receive an outstanding education while respecting & addressing the concerns of parents & staff.
- School budgets will become more contentious as the economy & inflation worsen. ***My experience as a CPA & business owner will bring value to the Board to address these serious challenges.***
- Decisions to protect the District's fiscal health should be implemented *before* they are imposed.
- It would be an honor to serve on the Board with **TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY & INTEGRITY.**

WHERE I STAND

- In a world changing at the speed of light, students need to *LEARN HOW TO THINK NOT WHAT TO THINK.*
- In the vast majority of cases no one has a child's best interests at heart more than their parents.
- To be competitive in a global economy the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) is critical. It's where the jobs are along with the trades-electrician, plumber, etc. Focus on classic academics.
- People's opinions *always* need to be respected but *never* forced to be endorsed.
- For girls safety and fairness, girls' sports need to be protected. I support Title IX.
- Student non-mandated medical choices are decisions for parents to make not the educational system.

WHO I AM

PERSONAL

- Born in East New York, raised in Flushing Queens, lived in New Hyde Park & Garden City & for the last 19 years a resident of Melville & Dix Hills (14) with my wife Susan who was raised in Dix Hills.

EXPERIENCE

- Over 40 years' experience in the business & financial industry.
- Practiced as a CPA for 20 years & became a partner in the Lake Success firm of Spahr, Lacher & Sperber.
- Former member of the AICPA & NYS Society of CPAs & served on several committees.
- CFO for a 125 million dollar Manhattan based real estate company.
- Financial planner specializing in retirement & estate planning.
- Former business owner.

EDUCATION

- St. Frances Prep. HS, Fresh Meadows, NY (formerly Bishop Reilly HS).
- Queensborough Community College, Bayside, NY Associate degree in Accounting.
- Baruch College, Manhattan NY, BBA in Accountancy and BA in History/ minor in Education. I student taught at Charles Evans Hughes HS in Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan.

Transparency. Accountability. Integrity.

VOTE TUE 5/16 for FRANK PERCOCO at
HHH High School East, 50 Vanderbilt Pkwy (opposite the Library)
Help spread the word to Vote for Frank: Call 10 of your district friends &
Text a picture of this to 20 of your friends in the district
To volunteer or for more information email FGPCPA153@yahoo.com

I ran for re-election to the Board of Education 3 years ago during a crisis the likes of which we had never before experienced. In 2023, we as a community are still responding to the complex aftermath of COVID-19, and I am proud to be a part of a district that ably and compassionately serves so many stakeholders.

Last year, I shared in a post, that "it took me years to truly understand so many aspects of my role. This is not a role in which a superhero swoops in and saves the day... We are guardrails for the community. We need to see the forest for the trees. We cannot have allegiances to sections of the community at the expense of others... Frankly, it and when I run for re-election... I will need the continued commitment, desire, open-mindedness, humility, and judgment to know my role and serve effectively as 1 of 7 stewards of the ENTIRE Half Hollow Hills community. The only real reason to run for Board Trustee, in my opinion, is to give back to a community that has given so much to us..."

Our district is borderline miraculous. We are among the most ethnically, religiously, socio-economically, and politically diverse districts (let alone one of the top districts for students with IEPs and 504s) on Long Island, and we are high-achieving in the arts, academics, and athletics. Our Current BOE and administrative team, teachers, principals, coaches, monitors, paraprofessionals, mental health experts, guidance counselors, aides, drivers, custodians, food service and support staff deserve more than a fair amount of credit for this continued success."

And me? I'm a proud HHH alum who lives a mile and a half from my parents and childhood home. In the 80s and 90s, I attended Vanderbilt Elementary, Boris Lane JHS, Hills East, and Northwestern University, where I met my wife Devra. My sons now attend Cuddeback and Hills West. I am an attorney, film and theatre producer, and author. I am also an educator at Touro Law Center and Chair of the Film & Television program at Five Towns College.

I hope you will, yet again, grant me the honor and privilege to serve the needs of Half Hollow Hills for another 3 years. Thank you for your consideration, and please vote on May 16!

Michael Pynes



IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

VOTER REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible to vote you must be:

- a citizen of the United States, and
- a resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and
- at least 18 years of age, and
- a registered voter.*

** Anyone who voted in a school or general election during the four years prior to the pending election need not re-register.*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Where: District Clerk's office at the Fran Greenspan Administration Center
525 Half Hollow Road, Dix Hills 11746

When: Any school day, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration is required if you have not voted within four years in a general election or school election. For more information, please contact the District Clerk at (631) 592-3013 or check the Board of Elections website (<https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE>) to see if you are registered.

The LAST day that a resident may register at the Fran Greenspan Administration Center to vote in the May 16, 2023 Budget Vote and Trustee Election is Thursday, May 11, 2023 before 4:00 p.m.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

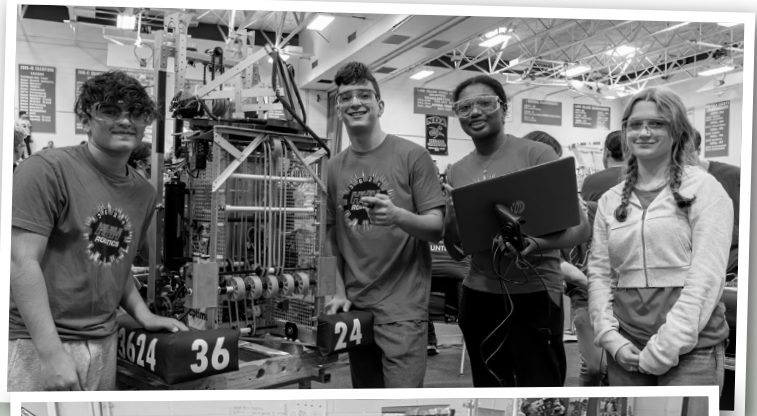
Applications for absentee ballots for election of school board members and for voting on the school budget are to be completed on a form prescribed by the state board of elections and may be obtained by visiting <https://www.hhh.k12.ny.us/district/budget-information>, or by contacting the District Clerk by telephone at 631-592-3013 or by email at fspeciale@hhh.k12.ny.us. Completed applications must be received at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the applicant, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the applicant or to his or her designated agent.

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND TRUSTEE ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 • 7 AM – 10 PM

HIGH SCHOOL EAST GYMNASIUM

PHOTOS FROM THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



PHOTOS FROM THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

