



**Half Hollow Hills**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Meet The Candidates

www.hhh.k12.ny.us

May 2024

Dear Community Members,

The following biographical information, as submitted directly from candidates for the Board of Education Trustee election on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 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 Adam Kleinberg, Stephanie Gurin and Nadia Pervez Bilal. The candidates for the Board of Education Trustee election are Brian Hall, Tina Shek, Adam Kleinberg (incumbent), Stephanie Gurin (incumbent), and Nadia Pervez Bilal (incumbent).

*\* In August of 2023, Nadia Bilal was appointed to fill the vacancy created by then-Board Trustee David Kaston's resignation from his term ending June 2025. This was done in accordance with Board of Education Policy 2150, giving them the authority to fill any vacancy by a majority vote of the Board. As such, there will be three vacancies for election: one to fill the unexpired term until June 2025 and two full three-year terms expiring June 2027. Since the district uses "at large" seats, the two candidates with the highest number of votes will fill the three-year terms and the candidate with the third highest number will fill the unexpired term ending June 2025.*

**SCHOOL  
BUDGET VOTE  
AND  
TRUSTEE  
ELECTION**

**TUESDAY  
MAY 21, 2024**

**7 AM - 10 PM**

**HIGH SCHOOL EAST  
GYMNASIUM**

## The Half Hollow Hills Board of Education

Diana Acampora, *President*  
Stephanie Gurin, *Vice President*  
Nadia Bilal  
Eric Geringswald  
Adam Kleinberg  
Dr. John Mathew  
Michael Prywes

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

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

**Board of Education**  
Diana Acampora, President  
Stephanie Gurin, Vice President  
Nadia Bilal  
Eric Geringswald  
Adam Kleinberg  
Dr. John Mathew  
Michael Prywes

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Dr. Patrick Harrigan

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Brian Hall was born in Queens NY to Jamaican parents who emigrated to the United States for a better life. His father was a mechanic and his mother was a nurse. Brian is the oldest of four siblings. Together they fostered an ambitious work ethic and a loving home. He grew up in Westbury and attended Long Island Lutheran High School.

Brian graduated from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park on a full academic scholarship, with a Bachelor of Science in 1999. He received his medical degree from the Howard University College of Medicine, Washington D.C., in 2004. Dr. Hall completed his surgical residency in

2009 at the Brooklyn Hospital Center. He then went on to complete a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, University Hospital in 2010. He joined the surgical faculty at SUNY Stony Brook as an Assistant Professor of Surgery specializing in Trauma/Critical Care. He is currently in private practice. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Brian is very proud and humbled to serve his patients.

Brian's greatest achievement is his family. He is a devoted dad to 2 beautiful daughters and a son. Both girls graduated from HSW, one is a junior at the University of Southern California and the other a freshman at the University of Miami. Brian believes that the Half Hollow Hills school district shares responsibility in the academic success of his children. His son will graduate from HSW as a member of the class of 2025. Brian enjoyed coaching boys and girls basketball with Fury. He also coached boys basketball with Spartans, leading them to a championship! Brian enjoys providing students with opportunities to shadow his work to help lead and create future surgeons. He also spends time mentoring medical students. He's an avid fan of Penn State athletics, the Brooklyn Nets, and the New York Jets.

**VOTE**

# TINA SHEK

FOR HHH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 (7:00 AM - 10:00 PM) AT HIGH SCHOOL EAST



The Half Hollows community is renowned for its academic, arts, and athletic achievements. Over the past two decades, I've been involved in advocating for, volunteering within, and serving this diverse district, contributing to its rich tapestry of cultures, beliefs, and economic backgrounds. As a parent of a special needs child, I bring a firsthand understanding of the importance of inclusivity to the forefront. To continue to strengthen our district, our focus must extend beyond traditional metrics of success. While continuing to support academics, arts, and athletics we need to prioritize mental health, social and emotional learning, and transparent communication between the community and our board of education (BOE). Strengthening these bonds will enable us to continue to grow as a number one district. We cannot overlook the holistic well-being of all our students. It's imperative that we provide comprehensive support systems to nurture their social, emotional, and mental health. If elected, I aim to amplify the voices of the underserved in our community and champion their needs. My goal is to lead with inclusivity and empathy, fostering a supportive environment where every student feels valued and empowered to thrive.

## COMMUNITY

- HHH PTA Council President - 4 terms
- Suffolk Region PTA Associate Director
- New York State PTA Special Education Specialist
- NYS PTA Resolutions Committee
- Northwell Health Family Patient Advisory Council
- One of the chartering members of HHH SEPTA
- Former PTA President of SEPTA, & Candlewood. Vice President at Vanderbilt PTA and HSW PTSA
- George Mason University Family Council
- Chairperson (current and former) to numerous HHH PTA committees

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2023 NYS PTA Jane Skrzypek Leadership Award
- NYS PTA Distinguished Service Award
- Suffolk Region PTA Peg Davis Leadership Award
- NYS PTA Honorary Life Membership
- NYS PTA Advocate in Action Award
- Suffolk County Legislative Proclamations for various Community Service work in 2008, 2011, 2013, 2015, March and April 2016
- Presidential Service Award - 2013

## ABOUT ME

- Community Resident for over 20 years
- Married for 27 years with three Children - Sinjin (24), Nova (22), and Zen (15)
- New York University
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainer
- Community Family Liaison for Asian immigrant families
- IRS Tax Examiner
- Chase International Banking



# Re-elect ADAM KLEINBERG

*for HHH Board of Education Trustee*



HONESTY ★ EXPERIENCE ★ RESPONSIBILITY ★ INTEGRITY

## **ABOUT ME**

I was raised in Syosset and moved to Dix Hills in 2003. My wife's name is Tracy and we have two daughters, Maya and Ava. One graduated Hills West in 2021 and the other is graduating this year.

As a managing partner in the law firm Sokoloff Stern LLP, I regularly defend school districts, administrators, and faculty members in litigation and administrative proceedings. I also represent municipalities, police departments, and private corporations. My clients are on Long Island and in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, and New York counties. I am also an adjunct professor at Touro Law School, where I teach Education Law, and serve as an officer of the Eastern District chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

## **WHY I AM QUALIFIED**

Every day, I advise my clients on issues relating to the U.S. Constitution, federal statutes, the New York State Education Law, and other topics. In doing this, I have gained unique insight into the commitment required of Board members and the challenges facing Board members and all public school districts.

I have been an active trustee of the HHH Board of Education since July of 2015 and am seeking re-election. I have been the chair of the Board Policy Committee for the past eight years. In this role, we examine every Board policy to ensure they are all current and accurate, and that older, outdated policies are updated or abolished. We also overhauled the district website and use of social media and ensured a complete set of policies are available online.

In addition, as part of the Board Facilities Committee I have continually worked to update and maintain our facilities without having to put out a bond to the community. As a member of the Board Legislative Committee, I have collaborated on proposed resolutions from and to the NYS School Boards Association.

Over my past three terms, I have worked closely with my fellow board trustees to ensure that our budget remained within the tax cap while offering additional and improved educational programs and extracurricular activities. We have given our administrators and staff the support and resources they need to continue to achieve high results and rankings. We received outstanding financial audits each year and achieved local and national recognition for our academic performance.

As a school board trustee, I have helped enrich and enhance our general education and special education curriculum and added various programs to ensure that every child can find and enjoy extracurricular activities. Additionally, we have upgraded technology across the district, developed increased safety measures, and made the district more accessible, both by videotaping board meetings and committee meetings and by increased communication.

## **MY GOALS**

We have faced unprecedented challenges in the last few years. As a District, we addressed them head on, making every effort to maintain the quality of education that our students deserve while adhering to safety guidelines and governmental restrictions. I do not want to rest on our past achievements, I want to continue to improve. My judgment, problem solving skills, leadership, integrity, and experience are what I continue to offer this district and this Board. I have helped the Half Hollow Hills community for the last nine years and I still have more to offer. I am asking for your vote so I can make this happen.

Email [akleinberg1@gmail.com](mailto:akleinberg1@gmail.com)



*Re-elect*  
**STEPHANIE GURIN**  
*for HHH Board of Education Trustee*

*Altruistic ★ Empathetic ★ Dedicated ★ Inclusive*  
*Proven Leader ★ Trustworthy*



**ABOUT ME**

Since December 2002, I have been a devoted member of the Half Hollow Hills School District. Furthermore, I am the mother of two exceptional and distinguished graduates from High School West. Steven, my son, presently operates his own business and was an All-American lacrosse player at SUNY Brockport, where he was the captain during his junior and senior years and shattered several lacrosse records. Gregory, my son, competes competitively as a member of the Men's Club Volleyball and a former member of the Men's Basketball team at the University of New England. Doctoral studies in pharmacy are his primary focus and he is expected to graduate with his PharmD. in May of 2025.

With an extensive and deep-rooted background in education, I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, two Master of Science Degrees in Early Childhood Education and Educational Technology, and a Post-Masters Advanced Certificate in School Building and District Leadership from Stony Brook University. At present, I am engaged in the pursuit of a doctorate in Education, with an expected graduation date of May 2025. Throughout my professional journey, I have accumulated over a decade of teaching experience at the Roosevelt UFSD and the New York City Public Schools in Brooklyn, playing significant roles in community educational leadership.

As a devoted HHH community member, I have chaired numerous PTA events, served on a myriad of PTA committees, and have been elected to PTA leadership positions at the elementary, middle school, council, and regional levels, including president of Forest Park Elementary School, Candlewood Middle School, and PTA Council. Furthermore, I have chaired the District Committees of Publicity, Diversity, and PRC/Task Force for the HHH PTA Council. As an accomplished two-sport college athlete, I have coached for Dix Hills Soccer and St. Matthew's Basketball, in addition to serving as a commissioner for the Fury Basketball and Flag Football Leagues, and successfully coached intramural and travel for over 20 years. Numerous honors have been bestowed upon me in recognition of my passion for educational advocacy and community engagement. Former Legislator Steve Stern named me the Woman of Distinction for the 16th Legislative District, and the HHH PTA Council & Suffolk Region PTA granted me Honorary Life Membership and the NYS Distinguished Service Award, respectively. For my advocacy and dedication, I have been honored with four proclamations from former Legislator Steve Stern and one from the Town of Huntington.

**WHY I AM QUALIFIED**

Given my formal educational background, teaching experiences, strong analytical abilities, leadership qualities, and collaborative skills, as well as my extensive service and devotion to the Half Hollow Hills School District and community, I am an exemplary candidate for re-election. I consistently remain attuned to the community's pulse and demonstrate attentiveness towards their needs. Since achievement and student learning are of the uttermost importance, enhancing and enriching educational programs, as well as providing the necessary support and resources, are all paramount concerns.

Holding the position of Vice President and having served as a trustee for three terms on the HHH Board of Education, I have substantial expertise in initiatives pertaining to student well-being and educational policy. As a member of the Nassau-Suffolk School Board Executive Committee and recently appointed to the Nominating Committee, I actively contribute to shaping educational standards and leadership selection at a broader regional level. As a lifelong learner with a thirst for knowledge, I have attended many New York State School Board Association conventions, workshops, seminars, webinars, presentations, and conferences. I have had the honor of being the Voting Delegate at the Annual Convention and am the current NYSSBA Advocacy Liaison to the Half Hollow Hills School Board. In June 2018, I was awarded the Level IV NYSSBA, *Board Lifetime Achievement Award*.

As the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, we advocated at the local and state level for the well-being and safety of our students and school community. We were able to move election polling sites out of several of our schools, supported the continuance of local control for our schools, and put forth several resolutions to the NYSSBA. I have participated in numerous Legislative Forums at the Local and State level various times a year and have gone to Albany with the PTSA Legislative Committee.

**MY GOALS**

As an effective School Board Trustee, I will continue to contribute my unique talents to the Half Hollow Hills School District. As we navigate the evolving educational landscape, I am committed to championing initiatives that foster the mental, social, and emotional well-being of our students, ensuring a comprehensive approach to education. This also includes promoting a diverse, supportive, and safe educational environment, ensuring that every student feels included, supported, and heard. I look forward to working collaboratively with my fellow trustees and stakeholders to ensure the success of all our students, which is why I request your support for reelection.

*Email: [stephaniegurinhhh@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniegurinhhh@gmail.com)*

# Re-elect NADIA PERVEZ BILAL

*for HHH Board of Education Trustee*



COMMUNITY ★ COMMITMENT ★ COMPASSION ★ COLLABORATION

## **ABOUT ME:**

I am a proud district parent since 2007. My husband, Billy and I, have been married nearly 25 years and we have four children: Safa, Azaan, Nomi & Ayla. Safa recently graduated from Northeastern University, Azaan is a sophomore at UCLA, Nomi is a freshman at Boston University and Ayla is a freshman at High School West. HHH has provided my four children with an exceptional education. I am incredibly grateful for the myriad of opportunities our district affords students and I genuinely love being a part of our vibrant and welcoming community.

While my most important title is “mom”, I have worn many professional hats. I am an employment and civil rights attorney, mediator and a real estate broker. An educator at heart, I’m a former high school Social Studies teacher, graduate school instructor, student-teacher supervisor, and Sunday School administrator. My commitment to education developed when I spent several summers volunteering as a teacher for economically disadvantaged youth on Long Island. I understand, firsthand, that student success is intricately linked to learning in an environment where one feels valued, safe and understood. I believe HHH provides this and more.

## **WHY I AM QUALIFIED:**

I have demonstrated 17 years of service and commitment to our district. I care deeply about its continued growth and success as an inclusive, diverse, and cohesive community. My first volunteer role was as “class parent” for Safa’s Kindergarten class. Here, I was introduced to the PTA and the valuable work they do for our students, families, and staff. From 2007 to present, I have volunteered in many capacities, guided by one principle – doing what’s best for the children. I have made a conscious effort to welcome and encourage all parents to participate and volunteer - especially those new to the district. In addition to being a class parent, volunteering at book fairs, holiday boutiques, back to school picnics, kindergarten orientation, teacher appreciation events and more, I have held the following positions, some for several years:

- |                                   |                                    |  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| •Board of Education, Trustee      | •PTA Council Recording Secretary   | •Vanderbilt PTA President                        |
| •Board Education Comm., Chair     | •PTA Council Leg. Comm. Rep        | •Vanderbilt PTA Recording Sec.                   |
| •Board Facilities Comm., Member   | •PTA Council Diversity Comm. Rep.  | •Candlewood Recording Sec.                       |
| •Board Audit/Budget Comm., Member | •PTA Council Arts in Ed. Co-Chair  | •PTA Council Arts in Ed. Comm. Rep.              |
| •PTA Council Vice-President       | •Vanderbilt PTA Corresponding Sec. | •Co-Chair: PARP, 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Yearbook |

Outside the district, I am a member of the Town of Huntington’s Anti-Bias Task Force, Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, and I participate in various interfaith events across Long Island.

Serving as a current Board of Education Trustee, has been an immense honor and learning experience. Over the past few months, I worked with fellow board members to support the great work of our administrators and staff, planned for upcoming improvements to our buildings and facilities, enhanced the safety and security of our schools, introduced new mental health initiatives, and supported new and old student clubs and activities. I have also celebrated the successes of our outstanding students in athletics, arts, academics, and community service. Our district serves the needs and interests of all learners seamlessly, in a thoughtful and fiscally sound manner. Our district’s consistently high rankings are a testament to the dedication of our administration and staff.

## **MY GOALS – 2024 AND BEYOND:**

Building on my current service, I am committed to creating new opportunities for students, especially high school students, to share their ideas and perspective with the Board. Our district’s diversity is a source of great pride and strength. Ongoing communication and transparency are key to maintaining our close-knit community. My track record, dedication to our district and reputation make me the ideal candidate for this position. Your vote is important to me, and with your support, it will be an honor to continue to serve in this role.

Email: [nadiabilal101@gmail.com](mailto:nadiabilal101@gmail.com)

# 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. – 3:00 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 21, 2024 Budget Vote and Trustee Election is Thursday, May 16, 2024, before 4:00 p.m.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS & EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots and early mail 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/budget>, or by contacting the District Clerk by telephone at 631-592-3013 or by email at [fspciale@hhh.k12.ny.us](mailto:fspciale@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. Ballots must be received in the District Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the budget vote and election in order to be canvassed.

## SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND TRUSTEE ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 • 7 AM – 10 PM

HIGH SCHOOL EAST GYMNASIUM



# PHOTOS FROM THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR





# PHOTOS FROM THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

