



**Half Hollow Hills**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Meet The Candidates

www.hhh.k12.ny.us

May 2025

Dear Community Members,

The following biographical information, as submitted directly from candidates for the Board of Education Trustee election on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 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 two Board Trustee positions. These positions are presently held by incumbents Nadia Pervez Bilal and Eric Geringswald. The candidates for the Board of Education Trustee election are Nadia Pervez Bilal (incumbent) and Donna Smawley.

## 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

**Interim Superintendent of Schools**  
Brian L. Conboy

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**SCHOOL  
BUDGET VOTE  
AND  
TRUSTEE  
ELECTION**

**TUESDAY  
MAY 20, 2025**

**7 AM - 10 PM**

**HIGH SCHOOL EAST  
GYMNASIUM**

# 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
- Board Education Comm., Chair
- Board Facilities Comm., Member
- Board Audit/Budget Comm., Member
- PTA Council Vice-President
- PTA Council Recording Secretary
- PTA Council Leg. Comm. Rep
- PTA Council Diversity Comm. Rep.
- PTA Council Arts in Ed. Co-Chair
- Vanderbilt PTA Corresponding Sec.
- Vanderbilt PTA President
- Vanderbilt PTA Recording Sec.
- Candlewood Recording Sec.
- PTA Council Arts in Ed. Comm. Rep.
- 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)

# Donna Smawley

## Candidate for the Half Hollow Hills Board of Education



If elected to the Board of Education, my experiences, dedication, vision, and passion for education will continue to help shape the future of Half Hollow Hills while upholding our legacy of excellence.

### Personal Background and Qualifications

- Devoted mother of two daughters—one a sophomore at Half Hollow Hills HS East and the other a 2022 graduate of HS East.
- Proud third-generation resident of Half Hollow Hills with a personal connection and deep understanding of the district's values and strengths.
- Extensive professional experience in the educational setting. Thirty years as a public school educator.
- Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of our school district's needs from multiple perspectives.
- Girls Co-Director and Board Member of Hills Youth Lacrosse.

### Vision and Goals If Elected

- Ensure that the students in Half Hollow Hills are well prepared for the workforce or continued education.
- Strive for our schools to remain current with instructional practices, integration of 21st Century technology, and school safety.
- Support an inclusive, respectful, and culturally responsive environment for all learners.
- Dedicated to maintaining fiscal responsibility while preserving the outstanding reputation of Half Hollow Hills.
- Believe in fostering transparency and open communication within the community.

# 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
- qualified to register or registered to vote in accord with section 5-106 of the Election Law.

*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 this year's Budget Vote and Trustee Election is Thursday, May 15, 2025 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 at 631-592-3013 or [fspeciale@hhh.k12.ny.us](mailto: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. 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 20, 2025 • 7 AM – 10 PM

HIGH SCHOOL EAST GYMNASIUM