

**School Board Candidate Info Sheet, 2021**  
**Eastchester Union Free School District / PTA Council**

---

1. Name: *Andrew "Andy" Savitt*
2. Education: *Penn State University (BA '91, MBA '99)*
3. Current occupation/professional experience: *Self-employed Marketing and Communications Consultant. Former Marketing Director for Start-ups (TSYS Prepaid/Clarity Payment Solutions and Acceleration Media). Assistant Director MTV on-air promotions.*
4. How many years have you lived in Eastchester? *Do you have children who are currently attending or have graduated from Eastchester public schools?* *Almost 20 years: we have been here since 2002. First we lived in Tuckahoe (Eastchester School District), and then moved to Eastchester (staying in District) in 2014. We have two children (Aidan, a junior at EHS, and Caitlin, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at EMS).*
5. Have you been elected to any leadership roles in the school district or in community organizations? *What have you learned from these positions?* *I am finishing out my last year as Co-Commissioner for the EYSA Boys Travel program in an advisory role and have also been a coach and/or manager since 2009. Elected VP of California Ridge Neighborhood Association (where we currently reside). Served as Mini-Grant and Scholarship Chair for two years at Anne Hutch Elementary PTA. Have coached or assisted at EIBL and Eastchester Little League/TEB softball since both kids were old enough to play. Volunteer for my daughter's Girl Scout troop. Advisory Board member of the Loukoumi Make A Difference Foundation. Eastchester Sports Club member. Past or present member of Waverly, Anne Hutchinson, Eastchester Middle School and Eastchester High School PTA every year since 2009 (when our son began kindergarten). I have learned from all of these positions that it is important to be involved in the community, to give back whenever and wherever possible, and to support not only my children, but all of the Town's children.*
6. What do you see as the role of a School Board trustee? *A School Board trustee should always have the community's best interests at heart. This includes first and foremost the kids, but also the taxpayers (regardless of whether they have children in the public schools), parents, and our wonderful staff and teachers. Each trustee may come to the table with different backgrounds and ideas, but we should share the common goal of representing the entire District for the greater good. This can be done via clear and transparent communication, prudent budget oversight and fierce advocacy for the District's interests.*

**School Board Candidate Info Sheet, 2021**  
**Eastchester Union Free School District / PTA Council**

---

7. What skills do you see yourself bringing to the School Board? *As one can see, I am a very active member of our community and have been for a long time. My experience is not limited to one segment of school life either; it spans across our entire school district from Waverly to the High School. I value the importance of academics as well as extracurricular activities (sports, music, dance, art, etc.) for Eastchester's children, and have supported not only those activities in which my children participate, but a host of others as well. I have helped teachers obtain grants for supplies and cutting edge programs for the betterment of our students. I have also worked with dozens of Eastchester students performing good deeds both locally and across the region via the Loukoumi Make a Difference Foundation. Professionally, my experience has prepared me to work effectively within and across cross-functional teams (e.g., finance, marketing, communications, technology, management) – an important skill to bring to a Board that deals with multiple issues, while teaming effectively with a wide variety of stakeholders.*
  
8. What is your educational philosophy and how would it inform your work as a Board member? *I am a proud product of public schools and believe in them as the foundation of a well-functioning civil society. Excellent public schools are not only good for our students (providing them with all the tools to succeed in today's ever-changing and complex environment), but also serve as a point of pride for the community at large. Eastchester is a Top 100 school in NY State. I am committed to further promoting the District's excellence and am eager to support Dr. Glass in a shared effort to keep improving our schools; and by extension the benefits they bring to our town.*
  
9. How do you see the state tax cap impacting school budget decisions in the coming years? What will be your approach to budget decisions? *For years Eastchester has been penalized by NY State's unfunded mandates while not receiving our fair share of state aid. As a result, the state tax cap puts even more pressure on budget decisions. This year, with everyone (regardless of politics) working together through advocacy and communication, the District finally received an increase in state funding – albeit still only 60% of what we should receive. We must continue our advocacy as a community to bolster this trend, as we should never want to cut budgets in such a way that we can no longer say that we embody excellence. With this in mind, we also need to think out of the box. I will reach out and work with local groups to seek outside funds to alleviate the burden of the taxpayer (e.g., the great work done by the Eastchester Sports Club to fund the new bleachers and press box, as well as the numerous fundraising programs by the Eastchester Irish-American and Eastchester Italian-American clubs and the Eastchester*

**School Board Candidate Info Sheet, 2021**  
**Eastchester Union Free School District / PTA Council**

---

*School Foundation - to name a few). Lastly, I'll work with other board members to explore any creative options to better manage non-essential staffing.*

10. What are your top three priorities for the Eastchester School District? How would you help advance these priorities? *The pandemic is the elephant in the room and has affected all of us in some way – to say the least. Everyone wants to get our kids back to school full time and the normal routines they all deserve. And while I think the district was far from perfect last spring (and Eastchester was not alone in that imperfection), I think EUFSD has done a very good job this year to provide our children with a sound education in a variety of available formats under extraordinary circumstances, having to make decisions with ever-changing facts, regulations and guidelines – in fact EUFSD has done better than most across the country. Thankfully, all signs point to our being able to get our children back to school 5 days a week in the fall in a safe and thoughtful manner. I intend to work as hard as I can with the Board to achieve that.*

*Accordingly, my top three priorities would be:*

- 1) Support Dr. Glass in whatever way possible. We have been unbelievably lucky to have such a great superintendent join us from one of the top school districts in the country during such unprecedented times. I cannot imagine how hard his job has been – especially in light of his recent move from Michigan to Eastchester mere months before the world as we knew it changed. So priority one is to keep him here for a very long time, as I think that his open-mindedness, tolerance, and commitment to educational excellence is great for the students and our District.*
- 2) Continue to advocate for Eastchester's fair share of State funding. The Board only has so much wiggle room to build a budget. More money available from the State means more investment in our schools – which benefits everyone in the community.*
- 3) Keep Eastchester moving forward. We need diverse ideas to achieve our common goal – to provide an education for the kids that is second to none. I'll make sure the Board continues to reach out to the community so that everyone's voice is heard, and that the Board is as transparent as possible regarding its decisions. While we may not agree on everything, the one thing we should all agree on is that our kids need the tools to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Robust technology, smartly deployed resources and the continued ability to adapt to unforeseen challenges are key to Eastchester's sustained success.*