

**School Board Candidate Information Sheet, 2022
Eastchester Union Free School District / PTA Council**

Name: Cheryl C. Smith

Education:

- PhD and MA in English and American Literature, Tufts University
- BA in English and Spanish, Tufts University

Current Occupation / Professional Experience:

I am a life-long educator and advocate for public education. Currently, I am Associate Professor of English at Baruch College, CUNY, where I teach introductory and advanced writing, arts and literature, world literature, and early American literature. In addition, I serve as Academic Director of the Baruch honors program. In this role, I oversee undergraduate admissions for honors programs, and I staff and support honors courses. I am also faculty liaison to the Center for Teaching and Learning where I plan and deliver pedagogy workshops, writing retreats, and teaching and research seminars for professors and graduate students.

I serve on the Dean's Council at Baruch and on two CUNY-wide Boards: The Faculty Affairs Advisory Board and the Advisory Board for Transformative Learning in the Humanities. I was co-chair of the Self-Study for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education which resulted in Baruch's successful re-accreditation in 2020.

In all these roles, I work with different stakeholders in CUNY's complex and sprawling educational system; manage and bridge the interests of students, faculty, and administrators; design and lead program and learning assessments; advise and mentor students and new faculty; and build initiatives to support and advance educational excellence.

Before coming to Baruch in 2005, I taught expository writing at Harvard and writing and American studies at Tufts. I also taught English as a second language in Spain for three years.

Please read more about me here: <https://4thestudents.org/cheryl-smith.html>

How many years have you lived in Eastchester? Do you have children who are currently attending or have graduated from Eastchester public schools?

My family has lived in Eastchester since 2009. We have one son in eighth grade. He has gone through Waverly, Greenvale, and Eastchester Middle School. He is excited to go to Eastchester High School next year.

Have you been elected to any leadership roles in the School District or in community organizations? What have you learned from these positions?

I have been active in the School District as a PTA member, executive board member, and board of education trustee since my son started school. I have been elected or appointed to the following positions:

- 2016-present: Board of Education Trustee
- 2019-20: BOE President
- 2018-19: BOE Vice President

- 2017-18: BOE Secretary
- 2020-21: Member, Strategic Coherence Planning Committee
- 2020-21: Member, DEI Taskforce
- 2015-16: Greenvale PTA Executive Board (Cultural Arts Chair)
- 2014-15: Waverly PTA Executive Board (PTA Council Liaison)

During my six years on the Board of Education, I have chaired the education and technology committee for five years, and the community relations committee for two years. I have also served on the labor and facilities committees and have been BOE liaison to Greenvale PTA, the Middle School PTA, and SEPTA.

In these roles, I have built rapport with the incredible educators and partners working on behalf of our children. I've learned about the importance of fostering and maintaining relationships with these partners for the continual advancement of our schools. Many stakeholders have a voice in building strong community schools, and we must work together to build consensus and support student success. Student learning, safety, opportunity, and success are at the core of all we do. When we work together, we can be more effective advocates.

What do you see as the role of a School Board trustee?

The role of the School Board trustee is to ensure fiscal responsibility, set effective policy, contribute to a positive culture for teaching and learning, and advance educational and co-curricular opportunities in the District. The Board also hires the superintendent and holds him/her accountable. To do these jobs, Board trustees must actively listen, do their research, understand state and federal regulations, respond to community concerns, and negotiate across differences to build consensus.