



Western New York Students First

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORCHARD PARK TEACHER LIKELY VIOLATES NYS PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW

ORCHARD PARK, NY (April 1, 2022)

Today the Executive Board of WNY Students First, a 501c4, was made aware of a likely violation of the NY State Ethics Law pertaining to public employees.

Orchard Park candidates Steve Barlette and Katherine Ibarra expressed their disappointment upon hearing the news. "Learning about this election violation is disappointing. Katherine Ibarra and I are independent candidates. We do not have the access the union has. It only takes a few teachers pressured by this abuse of power to impact election results. Where is the democracy in that?" said candidate Steve Barlette.

Concerned community members from Orchard Park are circulating the attached email (**See Figure 1**) which indicates that Adam Ziccardi, president of the Orchard Park Teachers Association, is using government resources to influence the outcome of the upcoming school board election, a violation of Public Officers Law.

Refer to: [Political Activity | NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics](#)

"The whole reason for running for the school board in the first place was because we did not feel we had a voice. We are concerned parents focused on our students and our community and we haven't been given the opportunity to express this on a level playing field, and that is not right." said candidate Katherine Ibarra.

WNY Students First will be filing a complaint with the Erie County District Attorneys Public Integrity Unit. It is critical to have integrity in all elections and remove undue influence over voters.

For further comment:

WNY Students First - 716-796-8679

Steve Barlette - 716-863-5127

Katherine 'Kati' Ibarra - 917-657-4113

Western New York Students First

Figure 1 - Email

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BOE candidates for
OPCSD ☆

Inbox

 **Ziccardi, Adam** 4:30 PM ↩️ ⋮
to bcc: hs_teachers ▾

Colleagues and Community members,
Here is a weblink for two exceptional candidates to our OPCSD School Board.
<https://togetheropschools.com/>
There are weekend community activities scheduled for this week already!
I will be in Albany advocating for ending weekly testing for un-vaxed teachers among other things. So, go represent us this weekend in your OPTA gear.

Also, please send me your personal email to this address:
adamziccardi3@gmail.com
if I don't already have it.
For future mailings and information please send your personal email to adamziccardi3@gmail.com.
AZ

⋮

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Ziccardi, Adam**
<aziccardi@opschools.org>
Date: Wed, Mar 30, 2022 at 4:30 PM
Subject: BOE candidates for OPCSD
To:

Colleagues and Community members,
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Also, please send me your personal email to this address:
adamziccardi3@gmail.com
if I don't already have it.
For future mailings and information please send your personal email to adamziccardi3@gmail.com.
AZ

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Adam Ziccardi
716-209-6482
OPTA president
K-12 CS coordinator
NYS Master Teacher
Teacher Webpage