

## Citywide Council on High Schools - Manhattan

### Candidates

**Candidate: Queen Walker**

**DBN:** 04M610

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Background**

Title I parent representative on the school's School Improvement Team for Thurgood Marshall Academy school Leadership team.

#### **Personal Statement**

After joining the School Leadership team in 2009 for Thurgood Marshall Academy, I understood the importance of parental involvement and commitment to my child's education. Volunteering is a major component of a child's success and development throughout their educational experiences. Parental involvement creates a culture of success both for the child and teachers in decisions relating to my child and her education. Council participation also allows me to be informative towards those who may not otherwise be aware of their options.

**Candidate: Jonathan David Weinberg**

**DBN:** 01M696

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Background**

I am a health care professional working in the field of Women's Health. In this capacity, I have been continuously and actively involved in education of nursing students, medical students, and medical residents for over 15 years.

#### **Personal Statement**

I was born and raised in Coney Island, and attended P.S. 100, I.S. 239, and Abraham Lincoln High School. I am very proud of my NYC public school background; I was able to use it as a springboard to college at Princeton University, medical school at Stony Brook, and residency at Harvard. I have two daughters - one attending Bard High School and the other a graduate of City-As-School and a current student at CUNY. I am very appreciative of the foundation that the public schools gave me, and have given my daughters, and I would like to return the favor by serving the community on an Education Council. I am

very much aware of the critical role our schools play in nurturing the future leaders of our city and country, and I would like to help them in encouraging excellence and achievement.

**Candidate: Burnitta Gadson**

**DBN:** 02M400

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

### **Applicant Background**

I have worked with both students and teachers in both special and general education. I have attended all parent/teacher conferences and am actively involved in the development of all my children academically, psychologically and socially. I have tutored children while visiting my children's classroom teachers and assisted in keeping the classes well structured during field trips which involve chaperoning.

### **Personal Statement**

I am interested in the welfare of all children in the public school system. I am seeking a position in one of the three open seats because I believe the educational policies of the NYC Public Schools should benefit all children regardless of one's learning styles or differences. I hope to make a difference in the lives of our young people by working with the Board of Education on a united front in improving the education system and policies. Thus providing effective educational and social progress for all NYC Public school children.

**Candidate: Theodore James**

**DBN:** 04M435

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I have served as president of the Parent Association at PS 153 for three years. I have also served on the School Leadership team for five years. I am currently a Learner Leader volunteer. I am also an elder in my local church organization.

### **Personal Statement**

I am appealing to all parents to support my candidacy for the Community Education Council in District 11 and the Citywide Council for High Schools in Manhattan. I am the proud parent of three children, all of whom are currently enrolled in the New York City Public School System. I am very much involved in my children's education and have advocated for them consistently over the past years. As a member of the CEC I will pledge my support to work on behalf of all children within my district. I promise to be

transparent and accessible to all and will work very hard to advance the causes of the parents and children of my district.

**Candidate: Suzet Loraine Johnson**

**DBN:** 05M499

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

### **Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Steve Rocco**

**DBN:** 02M413

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I'm currently the 10th grade representative on the PA of my son's school, School of the Future. I've also been on the nominating committee of my daughter's school, Manhattan Academy of Technology. I am the treasurer of my co-op and have been for the last 16 years. I'm also active at my church, volunteering for various activities including helping at the local men's shelter and am currently part of the centennial committee preparing to celebrate the church's 100th year. I've coached little league baseball for over 10 years and have coached AYSO soccer for 7 years.

### **Personal Statement**

I've been a resident of New York City for 25 years and reside in the Clinton Hill neighborhood of Brooklyn. My son is a 10th grader at School of the Future and my daughter is an 8th grader at Manhattan Academy of Technology. She'll be attending Millenium High School in the Fall. I've been active in both of my childrens' schools over the years, volunteering and coordinating in-school and after-school activities. I'm a grade representative at my son's school and was on the nominating committee of my daughter's school last year. I've been the treasurer of my co-op for the last 17 years. I'm active at my church, volunteering for various activities including the men's shelter and the centennial committee. I've coached baseball for over 10 years and soccer for 7 years. Even with all this, I want to do more and feel I have the energy and drive to bring a lot to the Council. Once I commit to something, I give it my all and am extremely responsible and a very strong communicator. I'll attend and contribute to every meeting/event possible and believe I can be a strong addition to the Council. I'm really looking forward to contributing and helping to make a difference. Thank you very much for your consideration.

**Candidate: Cynthia H. Perthuis**

**DBN:** 02M565

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

**Applicant Background**

**Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Lisa Frazier**

**DBN:** 02M393

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

**Applicant Background**

Annual Block Party.

**Personal Statement**

Hi I'm Lisa Frazier. The reason I'm running for office is that I want to take part in our children's academic success. I have 4 children and am experienced in advocating educational growth for my children. I'd like to share my skills and experiences with others who can and will contribute to the District.

**Candidate: Erona White**

**DBN:** 02M305

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

**Applicant Background**

I'm on the parent borad in the high school and in the elementary school.

**Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Stanley Ng**

**DBN:** 02M475

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

2011-2013 - CCHS - Citywide Council for High Schools, Lower Manhattan Representative (D1, D2, D3), Treasurer, Chair of the CCHS Capital Plan Committee. 2009-2011 - CEC - 2nd VP - District 20 2007-2009 - CEC - Member, District 20 2001-2006 - President Council. PTA officer, School Leader Team (SLT) , Title I sub-committee , C30 process. 1988-2003 - Baruch College Alumni Association Board of Directors member Started by raising money selling cupcakes for PTA, worked my way up the ladder, then TWICE elected to D20 CEC - 2007 - 2011. While on D20 CEC, SHSI a free test prep program that prepared 7th/8th grade kids for the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT), D20 Asian/white students were being excluded from the SHSI based on their background, I sued DOE in 2007. As a result, the SHSI's admissions policies were changed in 2009 to allow Title I (poor FREE LUNCH) kids from all backgrounds to benefit from that program. My own children never benefited from the DOE's SHSI program, links: <http://tinyurl.com/cd6wu8z> <http://tinyurl.com/2apqh5> <http://tinyurl.com/blnodrw>

## **Personal Statement**

Current CCHS Lower Manhattan Representative (D1, D2 and D3) - over 70 HS. Work with others (ie: CEC, UFT, SLT, local politicians, CB). 2011: Early Engagement and joint public hearings involving the phase-out of Wadleigh, Manhattan Theatre Lab in D3 and Legacy, Washington Irving in D2 (D2 Pres was out of the country and I had to organized the JPH for the two D2 HS). 2012: Co-location of Manhattan Charter School II (D1), Turnaround HS, co-location of two of Success Academy K-5 charter school into Manhattan HS (Graphic Communication and Washington Irving). 2013: the co-location of a new HS into Murry Bergtraum, 75 Morton street. Chair of the Capital Plan committee for CCHS, carry out the task of gathering, prioritizing and submitting capital plan requests from 400+ NYC public high schools from all 5 borough. Requires 5+ weeks of work each year w/o help from an AA. Note to the parent selectors: I like to thank each and every one of you for all the time and effort that you put in for the NYC HS kids . I hope you will consider giving me another term as your CCHS Representative. Links: <http://tinyurl.com/bmamor3> <http://tinyurl.com/c52c7c5>

**Candidate: Cynthia Bonano**

**DBN:** 01M292

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

## **Applicant Background**

CEC D1

## **Personal Statement**

I want to be a voice for the parents, I love being involved in the education process and being around other parents and learn about different subjects and topics!!!

**Candidate: Bernell B. Frank Jr.**

**DBN:** 02M625

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I am currently a CO president at HS Graphic Communication Arts HS PA program.

**Personal Statement**

My name is Bernell Frank Jr, I am a Single Father of 3 children and I dedicated toward increasing parent involvement within the school system. My middle son was a product of the Special Education system and with amazing instruction from some excellent teachers he is now an honor student in regular education. That is my wish for all parents to gain proper advocacy to aide their childs education.

**Candidate: James W. Thomas**

**DBN:** 03M494

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I like to see that every child gets a good education and get a good job and I like to help every child and hope that they get a good place to learn and also like to see Districts get back to what it used to be. I like to do this because it helps me to help do better work and work in each school is getting better. Lets bring our districts back together once again!

**Personal Statement**

I like to see new and better things for all of our schools through out the city. I like to see better books for all our children and also get teachers that can help our children do better. I do go out and visit some of the schools to see how they are doing in class and also around the schools. Lets move on from here!

**Candidate: Terri Nicol Watson**

**DBN:** 05M692

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

Fellow: I am a fellow in The Colin Powell Center's Public Scholarship Program at City College, City University of New York. I am currently researching the impact of mayoral control on NYC's children (2002 - 2012) Publications: Watson, T. & Sughrue, J. (2013) Who's zoomin' who? A critical race analysis of Florida's public high school graduates. *Confronting Racism in Higher Education: Problems and Possibilities for Fighting Ignorance, Bigotry and Isolation*. Watson, T., & Brown, K. (2010) A public relations nightmare: ACLU class action lawsuit exposes inaccurate and inequitable high school graduation rates. *Journal of Public Relations*, 31(4), 342-357. Works in Press Watson, T. (Fall 2013) Sustaining school leaders: A critical race theory approach. *Bridging the Theory-Practice Divide: Pedagogical Enactment for Socially Just Education*. Watson, T., & Hartman, H. (Spring 2013) Transformational leaders who practice metacognition. *The Professional Journal*, New York: The New York Academy of Public Education.

## **Personal Statement**

I am a product of New York City's public school system and an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership. I began my career in education as a middle school teacher in East Harlem (District 4) and over the past 20 years have thrived in several capacities as an educational leader. Moreover, I have a proven record of building diverse learning communities wherein all children prosper and believe I am a qualified candidate for this position. Thank you for your consideration. Regards, Terri N. Watson, Ph.D.

**Candidate: Jim Devor**

**DBN:** 01M696

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

I have been the President of the Community Education Council for District 15 ("CEC-15" - covering Brownstone Brooklyn, Red Hook & Sunset Park) from 2009 to present As President, of CEC-15, I oversaw the CEC's legally mandated participation in the Park Slope school rezoning which drew extensive coverage in the New York Times Before that, I served as a Brooklyn Borough President appointee to CEC-15 (and 1st VP from 2007-09) since the Community Education Councils began in 2004 until 2009. I am also a participant in the Bard High School Early College School Leadership Team. In addition, I was an SLT member at my daughter's Middle School.

## **Personal Statement**

During my tenure with the CEC for District 15, I've established a proven track record fighting the DoE's resistance to sensible policy. For instance, I am especially proud of the role I played in the creation of a Targeted Admissions program at a newly constructed school building in Brownstone Brooklyn. Thus, for

the first time under Mayoral Control, priority has been given to ELLs and children eligible for Free & Reduced Price Lunches. For a more extended description, see: <http://www.schoolbook.org/2013/01/10/how-we-devised-a-pro-diversity-admissions-rule-in-a-changing-neighborhood>. As Bill Clinton recently said, "intelligence is equally distributed but opportunity is not." Hence, if elected, to the CCHS, I intend to focus on the geographically (and racially) discriminatory admissions policies which supposedly (but not actually) maximize 'choice' for our children. Further, I also want to expose the perverse (and racially discriminatory) priorities found in 'fair student funding' as applied to High Schools. Finally, as the Mayoral Control law sunsets, I will do my best to give voice to parents' demands for needed changes in school governance.

**Candidate: Judith Amaro**

**DBN:** 06M540

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I am currently President of CEC6 and PA President of A. Philip Randolph Campus High School. I have been an education activist for over 8 years.

**Personal Statement**

I have been an education activist for over 8 years and I will like to continue to serve on a council because there is still a lot of work to be done. The fight for a sound education for all children continues and I have dedicated my life to it and will continue to do so.

**Candidate: Latica Lamar**

**DBN:** 04M435

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

**Applicant Background**

**Personal Statement**

I want to join the education council because I want help the children of NYC to have a superb education. Getting involved will help me be apart of the solution by not doing anything makes me part of the problem.