

Community Education Council – District 11

Candidates

Candidate: Christine Harris

DBN: 11X180

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I participate with my children's parent teacher conferences.

Personal Statement

I have three lovely children whom went to public schools through their education learning. I too went to New York City public schools and can say that I've had the best education possible. Being a candidate for the Education Council, would give me the opportunity to understand and advocate for my district. Being a parent, I understand the anxieties of wanting the best possible for your child. It would give me the knowledge to ask for what is needed in our district proficiently and to receive an effective response. I'm excited to know that I might help my public school district improve on their business at hand.

Candidate: Theresa Hedrington

DBN: 11X189

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

My experience consisted of serving on the community education council (cec) for district 11 and 12 and Parent Association board providing advocacy, outreach, fundraising and support to the school community and the families serviced. I also served as a learning leader where I assisted classroom teachers and the principals to reach set desired goals and daily tasks.

Personal Statement

As a member of the community education council (CEC), it is my passion and love to empower and serve families and children in our public education system. As an active parent of children in this system I enjoy growing and learning with them as I impart gifts that will last their life time. It is my desire to be part of a team to ensure that communities receive services, resources and information through a partnership to increase awareness and involvement in the educational system. I believe it is important to be an example of hope, strength, knowledge and courage, symbolizing that value of education. Faithfully,
Theresa Hedrington

Candidate: Nichole Singleton

DBN: 11X532

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I continuously participate in my son's school engagement on all levels of academia as well as in the development and nurturing of my child's and other children's education. I attend SLT meetings, I rally and oppose mayoral decisions as well as commissioners and affiliates regarding our children's education; MTA cuts, school closing proposals, and budget cuts and adversely affect a child's education. I provide economic, social and community development programs and workshops and a very active member in my communities activities and happenings.

Candidate: Rebecca Maldonado

DBN: 11X194

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been in the school system since 1995 when my oldest now 21 just graduated from college was in school. I have a 101?2 year old who attends PS?MS 194 in district 11. All this years I have been involved in the school as a learning leader and also I have been PTA President, Vice-President,Secretary, Treasurer, I have served in the SLT of each school I have been. I have participated in about 8 c-30's. Also I have served in the nutrition commity Savefty commityRight now I'm the PTA President of PS/MS 194 and I'm also the Vice-President of Presidents Council of District 11 and I also sit at the CPAC. I am proud of been part of all this commities and to be able to serve the community. I'm also part of the Outrich Commity of District 11, and I also Volunteer each first of the month in the ucan group of District 11. I'm a single mother of two and I'm proud to be able to serve the community and my school. and if given the oportunity to serve in the CEC commety and learn more in how I could serverd my community better I will love that chance.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Theodore James

DBN: 11X181

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: Jessica Jones

DBN: 11X087

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

In the past I have worked with elementary students in an after school program helping them with their homework, as well as engaging in activities with them.

Personal Statement

I decided to apply for this position to get more involved with my child's education. As a child my mother was PTA President in my school, and at the time I was embarrassed by it and wondered why she had to be so involved in my school. Now that I have a child of my own I realize the importance of getting involved. Like any parent I want my daughter to excel, but with the support of me supporting her school, and school district I am sure that will help. I grew up in District 11 and now that my daughter is attending school in the same district, I do see some things have changed. I would like to be a part of my district changing for the better so that my daughter, as well as all of the other children in the district succeed, and surpass the expectations.

Candidate: Uniqua Sade Smith

DBN: 11X041

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Co-Chair of the Political committee at St Johns University 2004-2006 3rd Vice President of the NAACP at St Johns University

Personal Statement

As the parent of two Kindergarten students, attending Public School in School District 11, there are times in which I feel as if certain questions go unanswered, certain concerns remain unaddressed, and certain opinions are never heard. In attending PTA meetings, parents are only being told about the changes that have already gone into effect. These meetings are not necessarily the place in which change begins, or is even considered. In attending these meetings, we receive news, and updates, on the conclusions that the school, and Board of Education have already decided on doing, I would like to be apart of the decision making process. My children have transitioned from Private School, to Public School, and thus far, I feel as if I have made the right decision, but I do feel as if there are improvements that could, and should be made within the Board of Education, within our Borough, within our District, and with-in individual schools. Until all of the Schools within our district is receiving passing grades, we have got to find some active community members to voice our concerns to the Board, and to try to rectify our District's education system. I would love to be that active community leader.

Candidate: Crystal Lynn Daniels-Reyes

DBN: 11X153

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

As a parent of a 1st grade Gifted and Talented student, I elected to be an active participant in his school by becoming a class parent. In that role, I am given the opportunity to bridge the communication gap between the teacher and other parents, as well as provide assistance to the teacher as needed. Currently I am employed at a community based mental health program where parents receive mental health services for their children who are also receiving Special Education Services, or are in need of specialized educational services. Part of my responsibilities includes providing parents with information needed as it pertains to their rights and the rights of their children, and to help empower them to advocate for their children's educational needs.

Personal Statement

When I discovered there was an opportunity to become a parent leader under the auspices of the Education Council, I knew I had to put my name in the running. As a graduate of the public school system, my experience was challenging and rewarding. When I became a parent, I made a commitment to prioritize my children's education the same way my parents prioritize mine. When my oldest son was classified with a speech delay and received special education services while in pre-K, I became better informed and committed to him receiving a free appropriate public education. Through collaboration with his educators, and advocating for his educational needs when required, he was able to transition into the Gifted and Talented program he is in currently. As a parent and Program Coordinator working

with other parents of children with and without special needs, it is evident the educational system is in dire need of more funding and resources for our children today. If elected to serve on the Community Education Council I will use my personal and professional experiences as a mother, class parent, advocator, leader, change agent, and communicator to help our students today become the future leaders of tomorrow.

Candidate: Nadia Mundle

DBN: 11X078

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

We must encourage our children to be their best at all times.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Lovidia Renee Hudson

DBN: 11X087

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am employed with A.H.R.C of New York as a Direct Care AMAP professional. Kaplan University student; Seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development, Graduation Date- April 2004. (G.P.A. 3.47) I am also a student Affiliate with the APA association, NSCS Honor Society member, Trust Risk Management insured, also a regular contributors of several charities including American Red Cross, Unicef, City Harvest and other Religious Organizations.

Personal Statement

I truly believe that our children can accomplish more success with advocates that are in place for their best interest. Taking the time to research and put into play resources that will help the education of our children by educating their parents. I am a single parent working overnight and my child struggles in the public school environment, If I am selected to be on the council I would definitely advocate and work towards redirecting our parents to becoming independent of negative responses towards other parents or teachers. The children act out what they see and feel, we can change by arranging parents support groups to better build social diversity acceptance, and interactions within their children in a positive way. It will also incorporate great fund raising capabilities.

Candidate: Stacey Nelson

DBN: 11X078

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

When my child attended a private school "The Learning Tree", I was part of the parent liasion council. I helped the teachers and assistants with contacting parents with information regarding the school and that particular class.

Personal Statement

My role on the educational council is to represent the educators, students, and parents so that all voices are heard. I will work to ensure that all ideas and solutions are beneficial to each party. As a parent of four children, one of whom is currently in first grade, I am well aware of the difficulties parents face on a daily basis to ensure that their children are receiving the best education possible, which in turn will provide them with a better future.

Candidate: Joanna Jusinoi

DBN: 11X076

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I used to go to The Bennington school most often when my daughter was in elementary and 1st grade and do a small 1 hour arts and crafts session with the children when possible and closest to a holiday celebration. For example, I did one for Halloween and one for Easter. I attended school trips for those two grades and made sure to bring something to the class as often as possible, represent the parents that could not, in any activities the teacher invited parents for, e.g. children's publishing party where they read aloud their published works in class.

Personal Statement

I am a working parent whose position is out-of-state. Until the end of the first grade I believed very much in my child's public education experience. I knew that the teacher assigned to my daughter for Kindergarten and First Grade went above and beyond to keep the children ahead of the standard curriculum that she was assigned to teach. As a result, her students started with their best foot forward in the 2nd grade. Now, there are many aspects of her education that i question. Simple things like checking for spelling errors. I was advised that spelling was no longer a focus of the curriculum. How do you teach to read and write without a concept of spelling? Many times I was told by my daughter that science and social studies were cancelled because "the teachers had a meeting." What took its place? A movie in the auditorium. This is an opportunity to discuss why there is no afterschool program to help prepare these children for the ELA exams. Why students are going to summer school not in handfulls,

but in droves? Why a school that started off as a 7 in Great Schools, has dropped to a 4 in two years time? Someone needs to advocate for the children. This is where I hope to begin making that impact.

Candidate: Marsha Reynolds

DBN: 11X144

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Joy N. Motley

DBN: 11X178

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a volunteer advocate at Urban Neighborhood, a non-profit educational organization.

Personal Statement

"I cannot preach like Martin Luther King, Jr. or turn a poetic phrase like Maya Angelou, but I care and am willing to serve." ----- Marian Wright Edelman Ms. Wrights quote is so much more then the words on paper. Giving back and working in the community is what life is about. It's about knowing the actual enjoyment that comes from making sacrifices for things that I believe in. And most importantly, it's about surrounding myself with people who feel the same way.

Candidate: Steve Miller

DBN: 11X169

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been an PTA President, SLT Member, DLT Member, CPAC member, Title I alternate chair and served on Community Education Council

Personal Statement

I have been raised in District 11, attending elementary, middle and High school. I embrace the opportunity to continue to serve the District. I am currently Parliamentarian on the CEC, Chair of the

curriculum committee as well as PTA President at my daughter's school. I recognize the work we must do if the district is to continue improve, We must model the behavior we expect from our children and support their learning, especially with the common core standards.

Candidate: Michael Joseph DiMurro

DBN: 11X097

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

As a NYC Police Officer assigned to the 47th Precinct School Unit , I have participated in many activities that are school-related. Such activities include teaching students about the effects of bullying, cyber bullying and joining gangs. I also engage elementary age students as the "McGruff Dog " and teach them about stranger danger and how to be safe. I have helped students from High School to Pre-K insuring that all students are safe. As a parent of two second graders I assist them with their homework and read with them on a daily basis. I participate in all class trips and attend all PTA meetings. I am an active parent in my daughters' school community

Personal Statement

As a parent leader elected into the Community Education Council it will be my goal to give full attention in assisting to lead the way for a better educational environment for our children. In working towards this goal, I believe a safe and healthy atmosphere is what every parent and their children desire. As a parent of elementary age children working with school officials and other CEC members provides me with the opportunity to work on programs that meet every students' needs. Being a part of the educational system in this manner creates a partnership between parents and teachers that will forge the necessary tools in making our children's future brighter. I look forward to being a part of this crucial process in expanding our children's minds and every parent's dreams.

Candidate: Rahima Akter

DBN: 11X144

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Because you like to get involved in your daughter's education

Candidate: Nazmun Nahar

DBN: 11X194

IEP/ELL: ELL

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Because I want to get more involved in my daughter's education

Candidate: Cheryl Smith

DBN: 11X189; 11X462

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

PTA president at PS 189x and SLT board member, PTA vice president at MS 462x and SLT board member, Learning Leader volunteer all of which is done in a campus building. I work hard to get parents involved in our school and community, it takes a village to raise a child and we are all a part of that village.

Personal Statement

I am a parent who has been blessed with the unique opportunity to serve in a campus building and knowing how after hard work on everyone's part some more than others at times, it now feels like one big loving family. I put the education of our kids first; and working together we can supply our kids with the best public education

Candidate: Stephanie Marie Jackson

DBN: 11X180

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Former Secondary Education Teacher SLT Secretary Title 1 Secretary Title 1 Treasurer Sixth Grade Committee Chair Class Parent Committee Chair Volunteer Committee Chair Fundraising Committee Chair Academia-Benchmark Committee Chair Member of ADHOC Committee Parent's Association Secretary Former Tutor of a SES Provider Former Member of the NY Wildcards Football Sports Program

Personal Statement

I currently serve and have been serving for the past two years. It would be my pleasure and honor to continue the work that I've been doing along with my fellow team members to better serve the children and families in my district. It has not been an easy task but I am and will continue to be up for the challenge.

Candidate: Elisabeth Mbeleck Bikoko

DBN: 11X153

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I've been a volunteer at P.2 75 from 2006-2008 . I used in translation French-English when the school is in need. I also work with parents with children with Special Education. I also helped teachers with Special Education students, because those students were speaking only french.

Personal Statement

I have been a very active parent since I came in this country. First at P.S 62 where my daughter then at P.S 75 where I served in the SLT, I was also treasurer. I served in CEC 8 for experience and I gained a lot of experience working w/ principals, parent coordinators and parents. I am serving in CEC 11 since 2008. I love the community i am serving and i believe students are our future therefore they need good and better educations. Defending students and schools is my passion, that is why I want to run for the term.

Candidate: Jeanine Timpone

DBN: 11X083

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Involved on school leadership Prior PTA volunteer Leader of Girl Scout troop Volunteer with Boy Scouts Prior experience with junior achievement of Hudson valley Volunteer for autism speaks.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Mary Cvorovic

DBN: 11X083

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was on the School Leadership Team and PTA in PS 72.

Personal Statement

I have a bachelors degree in political science and sociology from Hunter College and I served on the School Leadership team and PTA. The school system needs parents and educators to work together in making schools work for our children. With curriculum consistently changing and textbooks not being available for our children, it becomes difficult for the students to succeed and becomes difficult for parents to help them with school work. I would like to help in shaping the policies of the school system to make it more attainable for children to succeed and compete on a worldwide level.

Candidate: Shakawat Ali

DBN: 11X181

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Current member of CEC 11. Founder of Autistic Angels Association, a parent advocacy group for special need children. Vice president of Bangladeshi-American Community Council, an immigrant advocacy community organization.

Personal Statement

I have been an advocate for special need students and public education since my autistic son attended CPSE. I have been CEC 11 parent member since 2011 and proudly discharged my duty. I am also a chartered member of Central Bronx Rotary Club, a member organization of Rotary International. As a president of Central Bronx Rotary Club, I chartered Central Bronx Interact Club for local students and the Interact Club has been instrumental in keeping the students busy on many community activities. I also served as a member of the community board 9.

Candidate: Patricia Cramer

DBN: 11X175

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Former NYC public school teacher. Masters degree in Childhood education. Pre-school owner and teacher.

Personal Statement

As a former student, teacher and now parent of the NYC Public School System I realize that the system is nothing without continual participation and transformation. We need to stay ahead of the curve to meet continually changing dynamics in our children, communities, and government head on to make available for our children the best the system has to offer. An amazing education can be attained for all if we help the system keep our children and their teachers as the most important assets at the center of our mutual success. We must demand a tireless effort on the part of our educators but in exchange we must support them tirelessly.

Candidate: Sebastian David Ulanga

DBN: 11X160

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have served as PA President, President Council Vice President & President and CEC 11 Parent Member

Personal Statement

I am committed and focus in helping our children schools progress and get parents involved in there children school. Our children come first and I will do what is in the best interest our our children!

Candidate: Marie. D. Plaisir

DBN: 11X127

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently, I am the title 1 chairperson for CSD11 since 2008 in which I ensure that the federal rules & regulations are being implemented accordingly with the committees in place for each title1 school in the district. I am a member of the district school leadership team(DLT) and of the school leadership team(SLT) at my daughter's school. I am also part of the PA as the vice president. I hold workshops throughout the school year for the parents of the school district such as ELA, Math, Common Core State Standards, NYSESLAT, Science etc... I am a member of the Title 1 subcommittee for the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council(CPAC). Every year for Lobby Day, I participate with the United Federation of Teachers's (UFT) on advocating for our children's education, the school based budgets, school closings, co-locations & other related matters tha affect our New York city public schools.

Personal Statement

I thought of running for the CEC before but I never follow up on it due to the fact that there was such a need for parents to understand how title1 works and how it affects their student learning & progress. I

really needed to focus in getting the word out there to them so that they know that services are available and the purpose of these funds which is to help maximize student achievement. Now for the first time this year along with a few encouragement from others, I believe that I am ready to contribute to the work that the CEC has been doing for the past few years and how it has such a big impact on the community. "I am really in awe, as to how far our district has come and still pushing forward for the betterment of our students learning. I would like to continue to be part of it and to provide my services in anyway I can!"

Candidate: Barbara Ann Donohoe

DBN: 11X019

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

We as parents must be involved with our children's education. Our children's success depends on our involvement and input in their learning process from day one of their school experience. A team effort provides for the support our children need to succeed in such a demanding core program starting as early as kindergarten. Children first always!