

Community Education Council – District 14

Candidates

Candidate: Debbie G. Feiner

DBN: 14K034

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been on the SLT for a year and a half at P.S. 34. I am also a class parent for my younger son's class. I have developed several initiatives at my sons' school which were well received and I believe made a positive difference in our school environment.

Personal Statement

Hello, my name is Debbie Feiner. I am a primary care physician working with veterans at the Manhattan VA Hospital. I moved to district 14 in 2006 and currently have two sons attending P.S. 34 in Greenpoint. On the SLT at PS 34, I worked closely with Principal Winnicki before her promotion. At the transition of leadership at our school, I worked closely with our new principal to make her feel welcome and inform her of parents' concerns. I have put forward and/or participated in several initiatives at P.S. 34 that I am proud to say have improved our school's reputation and environment, including a class parent network, a new parent picnic, and a chess club. I have also attended several CEC meetings and was inspired to see parents' level of commitment to our schools. In addition, I am married to a public school teacher, so I have a true understanding of how hard our teachers work everyday. I deplore the fact that teachers have become scapegoats for our city's abandonment of its responsibility to our students. I hope to be a part of the CEC so that I can participate in a broader way with keeping D14's schools strong and making the parents' voices heard.

Candidate: Krista Ann Rizzo-Femia

DBN: 14K034

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have spent the past 4 years as a class parent for each of my son's classes. This includes corresponding with parents, meeting with teachers and the school Parent Coordinator and attending class trips.

Personal Statement

Education is the backbone of an individual's existence. In our house it's the number one priority for us to be able to provide the best education we can to our children. I am highly involved in communicating with our school leaders on a regular basis because I feel that keeping my finger on the pulse of the

school's activities and programs will help with our son's education outcome. I would like to take that to the next level by participating on the Community Education Council. I feel my education, background, personality and business experience can assist in helping to take the council to the next level. I am also looking forward to learning about the intricacies of the NYC Public School System as a whole.

Candidate: Shamiah Squires

DBN: 14K147

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have worked with special needs and general education

Personal Statement

I like to work around kids because you can learn from and i can learn from them. These kids are our future

Candidate: Maria Ortiz Farley

DBN: 14K414

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Certificate of Completion of Training of the Parent Member of the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) and Committee on Special Education (CSE). Regular visits and chaperon class trips with the Special Education class at my child's school.

Personal Statement

I have found a new calling in my life as I gain as much knowledge as possible in my child's special education needs throughout the NYC public school system. Having a background in legal studies for nearly 2 decades, the politics and bureaucracy are of particular interest. Specifically, the need to simplify so many of the processes parents and students must go through, only to get the most basic of needs. For this reason, I have been involved in my child's school's Parent Association as recording secretary, and regularly attend the School Leadership Team meetings. Although my child receives special education services, my desire to be more involved in the school community goes far beyond just those areas.

Candidate: Ramon Peguero

DBN: 14K318

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

i've been involved in the CEC since it was established. In addition, i've had very stron relationship with P.S. 18, P.S. 19, as well as P.S. 84. In addition, i have conducted a children toy drive for the past 10 years to ensure that the children of our community have a gift for the holidays.

Personal Statement

I believe that we should all try to be members of the Community Education Council. To me, it makes sense to be involved in a Council that has so much information to give to parents, and gives me the opportunity to better understand the system that regulates my children's education. Only through parent involvement will true reform of our educational system happen.

Candidate: Rebecca Romero

DBN: 14K380

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

My name is Rebecca Romero and I am the proud parent of four children who have all attended P.S. 380. I have seen firsthand how much the school system has evolved in this district. I have been an active member of the P.T.A for many years and would love to keep learning. I have had the pleasure of interacting with some of the best teachers that really care about the children and the school that they work in. I would love to continue to see firsthand how district 14 continues to grow and thrive.

Candidate: Clara Paterniti

DBN: 14K016

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I would like to take an active role, getting further involved in our children's education.

Candidate: Elaine Baker Manatu

DBN: 14K318

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am a member of the Bushwick Improvement Society, Inc. which operates the Stagg Street Day Care Center here in the district. I am also a parent leader of the boy scout Troop 26 also in District 14. Personally, I sing in the choir of the Metro Christian Center which operates the 'Yogi Bear Sunday School' which is the largest of it's kind in the world.

Personal Statement

I am one of the original members of the Community Education Council for District 14. I have served our children for the past 8 years. I enjoy serving our children, parents, and school community. When I think of parental involvement, I only wish that more parents were available to speak for our children/schools. As I travel within the community or visit some of our schools, it makes be glad to see parents whom have chosen to take more of a leadership role. They serve on the PA, PTA, SLT, and aid the classrooms. I know that these parents are the strength of our schools. Thank you for your service. Thank you for serving for those parents who can't serve. If you choose me, I will continue to advocate for you to the best of my ability. In additon, this Council will continue to empower you to access the tools to advocate for yourselves.

Candidate: Jordan Margolis

DBN: 14K084

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I maintain an active role with fellow parents and teachers in our SLT and PTA at my daughter's school. When my daughter was in daycare, we joined fellow parents and staff across the city in rallying at City Hall to preserve day care slots, and when I was a Hunter College student, I joined fellow students in lobbying representatives in Albany to preserve affordable higher education. In my decade-long career as a social worker, I have provided therapy, counseling, and interdisciplinary collaboration on behalf of families of myriad cultural and religious backgrounds with children ranging in age from infancy to young adults, with challenges spanning school difficulties, developmental disabilities, immigration, divorce, domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness, chronic illness, and involvement with the child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems. I have been blessed with training and mentoring from The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond which has added immeasurable value to my knowledge and skills of both community organizing and organizational development.

Personal Statement

As the proud father of a 6-year-old daughter, one of my daily commitments is to raise her with a developmentally-appropriate analysis of histories and cultures - her own, those of her parents, and those of her peers - that will guide her positive formation of self and relationships as she navigates her world of school and community. Since enrolling our daughter at PS84 Jose De Diego, I have built meaningful relationships with her principal, teachers, PTA, and school staff and upon this foundation I was elected to our School Leadership Team in June 2012 and began serving as SLT Chairperson in September. In commitment to Principal Rodriguez-Guerra's vision of our school being a nexus of cultural bridge-building in Williamsburg, I have played a leading role in codifying principles and language of cross-cultural competence and racial literacy into one of our school's Comprehensive Educational Plan goals, so that we as a school community may develop the skills for having courageous conversations and forming authentic, mutually affirming relationships on behalf of all of our children.

Candidate: Lydia Temples

DBN: 14K318

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

IN THE PAST I WORKED THROUGH KAPLAN IN THE AFTERSCHOOL SETTINGS THROUGHOUT BROOKLYN AS A SITE COORDINATOR.

Personal Statement

My child attends a NYC school. Its helped me decide to be part of DOE that holds much of her future by way of curriculum /testings. All children achieve potential when the formula and materials exist. Adults have a responsibility to ensure school is producing and encouraging children. Task of education is an awesome one and teachers are privileged and should know its opportunity to teach the future, and not take a passive stance of mediocracy being sufficient. All the money allocated per student parents are still called to fund/, organize additional funds for the sufficient operating of the schools. Private schools manage to do much with little. I'm unsure of all the mechanics of DOE system and its operation, but see involvement is key, I wish to be a advocate for the children and begin to work in partnership with schools/parents. Help parents find voice and strenght. Parents must not forget they are and always will be a childs first teacher. As are profesionals, fully capable of strategically routing their childs success.

Candidate: Epifanio Canongo

DBN: 14K157

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

PTA President at PS 157 -Learning Leaders Volunteer -School Sales -Valentine Sales -Christmas Sales/Toy Drive -Thanksgiving Celebration Feast - PTA Raffles -Soliciting local business for contributions -5 de Mayo block part -Parent Advocate -Shool trip chaperone -Family movie night every month

Personal Statement

I am a father. I am a parent. A parent that looks beyond my children's education. I believe that I can encourage parents to get involved in their children's academic studies. I can improve our community by leading the path to a better tomorrow. Our schools are here for our children. Let's improve our schools by getting involved.