

## Community Education Council – District 2

### Candidates

**Candidate: Jennifer Kops**

**DBN:** 02M040

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Background**

I am in the financial industry with a focus on accounting/budgeting. Prior to that I owned and operated several different restaurants. I attended Syracuse University and Rutgers University. I was the VP of Social Development for Alpha Chi Omega. I have worked with non-profits in fundraising and grant writing. For the past 3 years I have been on the board of directors for the Peter Cooper/ Stuyvesant Town Tenants Association. Since my children have entered into our school in Pre-K I have been very active in our PTA.

#### **Personal Statement**

Why is it that I want to run for a CEC District 2 Council? Well, I believe that the council needs some new voices and opinions. I have lived within the District 2 zone my whole life and now my 2 children attend PS 40 and are a part of this community. For the past four years we have been a part of PS 40 I have been very involved with the PTA and the school in general. This year I was the Co-Chair of two annual PTA fundraisers and attended CEC meetings. I now want to take this to a grander scale. I want to help our District 2 community at large and work on the council to make sure the voices of all schools are heard. I will be a very approachable council member, who would love to hear from and work with parents, principals, staff, students, neighbors and our elected officials. Zoning was addressed in this past term and now the Capital Plan is going to be in the forefront of the agenda. I want to make sure that everyone gets heard and that the budget is as fair as it can be for all involved. We all have one goal, the same goal, and that is to prepare our children for the future. Please let me serve on the District 2 Council so that I can help our community do just that!

**Candidate: Beth Cirone**

**DBN:** 02M167

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Background**

I have been a member of the Community Education Council in District 2 for the past 4 years. When I worked as an Assistant District Attorney (from 1988 until 2005), I met with school children and senior citizens to discuss community safety; I also provided training to rape crisis counselors.

### **Personal Statement**

My name is Beth Cirone. I have been a member of the Community Education Council in District 2 for the past four years, during which I have served as a co-chair for the Middle School Committee and as a member of the Zoning Committee. I am an attorney who currently works in the court system. Prior to that I served as an Assistant District Attorney for 16 years in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. The advocacy skills I learned as a prosecutor have served me well as a member of the Community Education Council where I have advocated for parents on a number of issues, including school overcrowding, the need for new schools, and the need for more funding for our schools. I have also provided advice to parents on how to build stronger school communities and ways to advocate for children with disabilities. Much of the work of our council involves rezoning areas of our District and I have tried hard to meet the needs of parents in our District during a process that can be extremely stressful. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to serve the community of District 2.

**Candidate: Paul Krikler**

**DBN:** 02M151

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I am actively involved in many PTA activities , throughout the year, including being Chair of the Audit Committee. I am also a coach to a NYC school through the PENCIL program.

### **Personal Statement**

I have three children in NYC Public School and I am actively involved in the school through many PTA activities, including being Chair of the Audit Committee. I care deeply about the provision and quality of education our children receive.

**Candidate: Shino Tanikawa Oglesby**

**DBN:** 02M003

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I have served on the CECD2 since March 2009 and am currently the President. I have served on the PTAs in the leadership roles and SLTs of elementary, middle and high schools. I served on the District 2 PTA Presidents Council as Treasurer prior to serving on the CECD2. I was a member of the NYC Parent Commission for School Governance, which developed a set of recommendations for the state education law. I am an environmental educator and have lectured in many public schools in the city on topics ranging from climate change to water quality. I have volunteered as an environmental educator at my daughters' elementary, middle and high schools teaching hands-on science lessons.

## **Personal Statement**

I have served on the Community Education Council District 2 for the last four years and am currently the President of the CECD2. I have decided to run again because there is still much to be done. I want to continue working on empowering parents so that they have a voice in decision making, developing an intelligent system of accountability (not the test-score based accountability), eliminating high stakes tests, ensuring a high quality education for our most vulnerable students (e.g., students with special needs and English Language Learners), advocating for a more holistic and comprehensive curriculum (rich with arts and sciences), reducing overcrowding and class sizes in our schools by building more schools, and fighting for more resources for our schools.

**Candidate: Ofier Segal**

**DBN: 02M290**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

## **Applicant Background**

Currently and for the last nine years, I've worked as a middle school assistant principle and director of technology at the Solomon Schechter School of Queens. At Solomon Schechter, I've supervised all middle school teachers, advised students, revamped curriculums across disciplines, procured a number of grants, and implemented e-learning systems in our classrooms. I have demonstrated an immense commitment and dedication to education and I see myself as personable, energetic, and innovative. Previously, I've worked for eight years as a teacher of gifted and talented students as well as regular and special education students, in schools from the South Bronx to Manhattan. I've also worked for an educational software company that was one of the first firms to devise e-learning software for middle school and secondary school students. Although I do have substantial teaching experience in two of three school divisions I have supervised high school students at The New York City Museum School while they performed internships at various museums. As the technology specialist, I have co-taught courses using technology.

## **Personal Statement**

There was an article a few months ago in The New York Times that focused on The Waldorf School of the Peninsula, a school located in the heart of Silicon Valley that denounces technology as a teaching device in favor of "old school" tactics like writing vocabulary words over and over again so they're forever implanted in a child's long-term memory. What's interesting about this particular Waldorf School, one of approximately 160 Waldorf Schools nationwide, is that its students are the sons and daughters of the movers and shakers of Silicon Valley. The innovators at Google, Apple, and Hewlett-Packard (those who have made their careers and their fortunes by revolutionizing technology in the digital age) agree with the leaders at Waldorf that children learn best without technology. As an educator myself, I laud the administrators and teachers of the Waldorf Schools for bucking a global trend and bravely challenging the seemingly unchallenged belief that technology aids education.

**Candidate: Andrea Martha Popescu-Martinez, MD**

**DBN:** 02M114; 02M183

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

ASIDE FROM NAVIGATING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS' SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESS WITH MY DAUGHTER FROM KINDERGARDEN UNTIL 7TH GRADE I HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED WITH ANY ACTIVITIES OR MEMBERSHIPS.

**Personal Statement**

I AM PROUD OF MY CHILDREN'S PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION AS WELL AS MY OWN! WHEN I ARRIVED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM ROMANIA IN 1979 I ATTENDED PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NYC, INCLUDING BROOKLYN TECHNICAL HS. I ALWAYS FELT THAT THE NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAD A POWERFUL EDUCATION WHICH CAN HELP ONE ACHIEVE HIS/HER HIGHEST POTENTIAL THROUGH HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. I HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK IN THE PUBLIC SYSTEM SINCE GRADUATING FROM MY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AT NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE AND CHOSE TO REMAIN AS AN ATTENDING AT ITS AFFILIATE, METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL. HERE I WAS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH IN HELPING THE UNDERSERVED AREA OF EAST HARLEM AS WELL AS UNINSURED PATIENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BEING A PRODUCT OF NYC'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE STRONGLY IN IT AS I HAVE WITTNESSED THE EDUCATION MY CHILDREN ARE NOW RECEIVING. I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE EVEN IN A SMALL ROLE TO THE SYSTEM THAT HAS HELPED ME TO ACHIEVE SO MUCH IN MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

**Candidate: Anna Li**

**DBN:** 02M011

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

Currently, I am on the PS11 auction committee, involved in securing donations for the school's auction. During the actual event, I will be coordinating with the various participating restaurants and the venue to ensure every participant is taken care of and everyone knows what they are doing, and how the event is being run. I regularly attend PTA meetings, and I am working with the PTA on a "Matching Donation" program, so we can interest more parents in making first time donations to the PTA. I have organized my daughter's class parents to purchase three pieces of equipment for our school's new Cooking Classroom. Once weekly, I volunteer in PS11's library, to which we regularly make book donations. After the benefit is over, I plan to work with the PTA to increase our school's "Green Practices", with hopefully more recycling in the lunchroom and on each floor of the school. Outside the school, I regularly organize donation runs to places such as Covenant House, NYC Rescue Mission, and Furnish a Future. I also drop off treats anonymously to the terminally ill residents at a retirement home on our block.

## **Personal Statement**

My Kindergartener is now in her second year of public school. I am amazed at the vast scope of experiences she is having, and how meticulously researched her education is by both her homeroom and her specials teachers. I would like to serve on the Education Council because I would really like the opportunity to get a closer look at how the instructional programs are running and how they might change in the future. I not only care deeply about my own child's education, but, as a native New Yorker, I would like to be as proud as possible of the NYC Public School education. I sincerely believe that all New York children have the right to a public education which is both extensive and intriguing. Our kids deserve to be not only taught what to learn, but also how to think. Our kids should solve problems and be creative, so that they may rise to the top, wherever they are. There are so many moving parts to a well run educational system, and I hope, as a dedicated parent, that I may be a valuable addition to the shaping and decision-making of education policies.

**Candidate: Elan Barish**

**DBN:** 02M290

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

I have served on the SLT of our school, as well as being a delegate to the executive board. I have run our Annual Appeal, as well as co-chairing our Annual Spring Street Fair.

## **Personal Statement**

I believe that public education is the cornerstone of our city and should serve as a beacon for the families in our community. Our children live in the greatest city in the world and should feel the effects of the great minds, financial treasures, and cultural highlights. I believe that regardless of socio-economic lines all children have the right to an excellent public school education. I believe it is our job as laypeople to scaffold the support our schools give our children. I choose to be active because I feel it will enrich not only the education of my children, but for all the children in our community.

**Candidate: Rita Finta**

**DBN:** 02M040

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

I taught elementary school Hungarian language/culture in Canada. I am a grade parent coordinator and often volunteer at the school. I have been a girl guide leader and part of the Hungarian Scout leaders as well.

## **Personal Statement**

I believe quality education starts in the classroom with the leadership of a quality principal and a supportive and accountable school system that rewards quality in both students and educator. I am a firm supporter of measurable accomplishments and transparency into our students education. As a working single/divorced parent I bring along the unique perspective and needs of mothers like me who also need a reliable school system in place where child care is provided during the school calendar year regardless of the scheduled non-academic activities, staff training, weather emergencies etc.

**Candidate: Hadar Yerushalmi**

**DBN:** 02M397

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

I was involved in leading events and fund-raisers at my daughter's Montessori pre-school. Including a tag sale and new family picnic. Due to my background in digital advertising, I helped the class become more communicative and share files and information. Otherwise, I have not had much experience in civic activities.

## **Personal Statement**

Having built my career in digital marketing, I understand the value of effective communication and engagement. I have helped Fortune 500 companies gain alignment around marketing efforts and have designed strategies that have enabled them to engage with their constituents. As a parent of a Kindergartener in a new NYC public school (Spruce St), I am seeing potential around creating alignment and consensus among parents, administration and teachers. While communication has been plentiful, I have not found it to be effective, inspiring or 2-way. Parents do not know their responsibilities or how to contribute and support efforts. Teachers are left alone to develop and implement solutions in one-off undocumented ways. I believe the role of the city is to provide the tools, platforms and processes to empower parents to contribute in productive ways that answer school and class needs in partnership with teachers and administrators. I would like to be a part of creating alignment, prioritization and collaboration to ensure efforts can be successful.

**Candidate: Elsa Christina Torres**

**DBN:** 02M089

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

I am part of the PTA at PS89. I have a background in research in education. I worked for 10 years in a educational research in civic education. I worked with communities including educational ones. Also I

have been working in effective ways of communicate and share ideas through the use of a variety of media platforms; publication, photo, video, etc.

### **Personal Statement**

Work for a better an adequate education in our communities are one of the most important missions of our society. We must work together as a community to support our schools and guide them to achieve an education that prepare our kids to excel in their contribution to society. If our students experience at school the benefits of the creativity, solidarity and compassion, if our students feel empower through the development of real skills, and can develop projects from the beginning to the end, we are opening the door to a responsible citizens that are willing to participate actively in the building of a healthy society.

**Candidate: Christopher J.A. Messina**

**DBN:** 02M276

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

#### **Personal Statement**

Mr. Messina is a native New Yorker, with deep, international experience in the capital markets. He is a professional investor, with a lifelong interest in education and two children currently in the school system, with a third about to enter. Most recently, he was CEO and co-founder of a NY-based specialist financial services advisory firm and commodity trading fund. Prior to operating that fund business, Mr. Messina was COO for Global Futures and Managed Funds at ICAP plc. Mr. Messina has been a strategic consultant to McKinsey & Co. He has worked with Goldman Sachs in New York and Goldman Sachs JBWere in Australia in operational risk, proprietary investments and quantitative research. He has lectured extensively at leading international conferences and at law schools at the request of both private sector banks as well as public sector entities such as the World Bank. Prior to his career in finance, he spent three years in industrial sales in Africa. He has an AB in Anthropology from the University of Chicago, where he was a National Merit Scholar, and an MBA in Finance from the Australian Graduate School of Management. He is a member of Business Executives for National Security and New York Coal Trade Association.

**Candidate: Simon Miller**

**DBN:** 02M158; 02M312

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

### **Applicant Background**

For the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Community Education Council for District 2 (CECD2) as the First Vice President. Prior to that, I was a parent member of the PS 158 School

Leadership Team. In that capacity, I was PS 158's liaison to the CECD2, Community Board 8's Youth and Education Committee as well as with local elected officials in connection with their efforts to address overcrowding in District 2. During that time as well as for a number of years prior, I was a member of Parent Leaders of the Upper East Side (PLUS), a parent advocacy group seeking to provide coordinated advocacy for parents across UES public elementary schools in connection with their dealings with the DOE. Separately, for the last 8 years, I have been a member of the Board of Directors of Bowery Residents' Committee ("BRC"), a homeless services organization operating throughout New York City.

### **Personal Statement**

As a member of CEC D2 for the past 2 years and a parent advocate for many years, I know the critical role that parents can play in shaping public school environments where our kids learn. A cohesive CEC can be a profoundly positive avenue for parents to make their voices heard by DOE. DOE's recent announcement of a new middle school on the UES, a parent goal for many years, is a prime example of the power of organized and relentless advocacy. Certain CEC issues, like rezoning, require choosing between differing views amongst parents. I always strive to listen intently, appreciate the facts and feelings completely and evaluate the issues even-handedly. As an attorney handling complex business disputes and as a certified mediator, I can zealously advocate for a cause and also work to achieve consensus. I believe these skills have helped me to be an effective member of the CECD2. I would welcome the opportunity to continue to find ways to engage with the DOE on behalf of parents and kids and to make sure that parents' voices continue to be heard.

**Candidate: John J. Keller**

**DBN: 02M059**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

### **Applicant Background**

--I am, a Parent Member of the PS59 SLT, a position I have held for four years, elected by school parents on three different occasions. In this capacity, I have worked on multiple issues of concern to our community, including school environment, internal communications, external community relations and the recent, multi-school effort to locate a new Middle School in District 2. --I was appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts (Michael Dukakis) as an Assistant Secretary in Massachusetts' Executive Office for Administration and Finance, working for the Governor on a range of Budget-related issues and coordinating the Governor's liaison with the Business Community in the Commonwealth. --I have worked as a Speech Writer and Issues Advisor on a US General Election Campaign (Presidential) and have worked informally as an advisor and speech writer for a US Senator. --I am an educator: former ranked University Faculty member (St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA) and currently an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Program of Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. (For more information about me, please visit my web page at [WWW.JJKEL.COM](http://WWW.JJKEL.COM).)

### **Personal Statement**

I want to serve on CECD2 for three reasons: (For more information about me, please visit my Web Page at [WWW.JJKEL.COM](http://WWW.JJKEL.COM).) 1) To LISTEN to the concerns of parents and help create an environment for more



effective COMMUNICATIONS among parents as well as from parents to the DOE to help make our schools better for all our students. 2) To hold the DOE more accountable to parents for the INFORMATION that it uses to make critical decisions. 3) To hold the DOE more accountable on other important issues, including: --HIGH STAKES TESTING and the implementation of the "Common Core Standards." --DOE USE OF STATE FUNDS intended to reduce Class sizes ("Contract for Excellence"). --THE PROTECTION OF STUDENT PRIVACY, in particular third party access to sensitive student information entrusted to the DOE. I believe I would be an effective member of CECD2 for three reasons: 1) I went to school in NYC (BA, Fordham), have lived in District 2 for over 20 years, have served on my school's SLT for four years and understand the challenges that New York and District 2 face. 2) I have experience applying "Private Sector" analytic skills (MBA, Harvard) to Public Sector Issues (appointee in a State Government). 3) I am an Educator myself.

**Candidate: Jana Braha**

**DBN: 02M158**

**IEP/ELL: IEP**

### **Applicant Background**

I have worked over the last several years as a Parent Member for the Committee on Special Education Region 9. The role of a parent member is to provide information and support for parents of school age children, ages 3 - 21, who are eligible for Department of Education special education services. Skills required include; knowledge of new laws and reforms in the NYC public education arena, understanding the requirements for eligibility to receive special education services, and knowing the specific details of each public school placement option in the continuum. A parent member serves as a liaison between the members of the Committee of Special Education and/or the School Based Support Team and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child. Since the parent member has had a child who currently receives services through CSE, the parent brings real life and a parent perspective to the meetings. I feel my experience working in various community schools, with DOE administration, and with concerned parents gives me invaluable insight. I have had a unique opportunity to view the public education community from a DOE perspective and a from a parent and child perspective.

### **Personal Statement**

I am a strong advocate of public education. I believe the public school system provides a unique and individual educational experience for all types of learners. The NYC public school teachers and staff strive to make each child feel successful. Our school communities are diverse as our children come from many different social, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. I would like to serve on the Citywide or Community Education Council. I have had invaluable experience working as a Parent Member with CSE Region 9. This work has given me a unique opportunity to work in various NYC community public school with psychologists, social workers, related service providers, principals and assistant principals, as well as parents in each of their community schools. My work has also given me a chance to work with various administrators in the Department of Education. Most importantly, I am a parent of an active, happy go lucky 3rd grader in my local public school. Being a part of the Community Educational Council would be a rewarding experience that would give me the opportunity as a parent to take part in learning more about, supporting, and giving back our local community schools.

**Candidate: Matthew Keefe Horovitz**

**DBN: 02M041**

**IEP/ELL: IEP**

### **Applicant Background**

I have six year old twins in first grade at P.S. 41. For the last two years, I have been a class parent in my son's class, which is a special needs classroom. Also, last year, I wrote a forty-page PTA Handbook for incoming parents, so that new families would be better acquainted with the rules and regulations at 41. Lastly, I have been a manager in the Greenwich Village Little League for the last three years, coaching my children and their friends in t-ball and baseball.

### **Personal Statement**

I have six year old twins in first grade at P.S. 41. I am a graduate myself of P.S. 41, having grown up in the West Village, and am delighted to be raising my family there as well. For the last two years, I have been a class parent in my son's class, which is a special needs classroom. Also, last year, I wrote a forty-page PTA Handbook for incoming parents, so that new families would be better acquainted with the rules and regulations at 41 then we were upon arrival. I would love to take part in the CEC's vital work because of its importance in my community, and, in my personal life, since I will be shepherding my children and my friends' children through the public education system for the next decade, I would love to be able to lend a hand to make it the best possible education it can be for my loved ones.

**Candidate: Anne Einhorn**

**DBN: 02M217**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

### **Applicant Background**

I was a assistant teacher in a gifted and talented program at CW Post, Long Island University for several years. I also taught LSAT prep classes. In addition, I volunteer at my daughter's current and prior school (PS 217 and Ella Baker School) and at my younger daughter's pre-K school.

### **Personal Statement**

I have both a legal and finance background. Prior to attending law school, I worked in banking. I also worked for the New York State Attorney General's Office for several years. I grew up in a family of public school teachers. My parents taught in a New York City public high school and I attended public schools in our community. I am committed to public education and I am sending my oldest daughter to public school and plan on sending my younger child when she is eligible. I have experience teaching LSAT preparation courses and was an assistant teacher in a gifted program at CW Post Long Island University for children.

**Candidate: Katiana Kalouf**

**DBN: 02M051**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

**Applicant Background**

**Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Elizabeth Weiss**

**DBN: 02M077**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

**Applicant Background**

**Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Jodie Gillon**

**DBN: 02M059**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

**Applicant Background**

I have been increasingly active at PS 59. I am a class parent and I've created a STEM committee at the school to improve education in this area. To date I've added a science night, math after school club and brought in groups such as NYU neuroscience to teach about the brain. I have many other programs planned such as computer programming and keyboarding as well as educational trips for the students. My husband and I are extremely involved in our only child's education and have countless ideas and unstoppable energy to help improve his education as well as his peers and future students. I've done tremendous amount of research comparing programs across District 2 as well as G&T programs to help enrich his curriculum and even created a science class in our home for his friends to enhance their learning. I believe that I have a great deal of information to share to help improve and enrich the current curriculum.

## **Personal Statement**

I am applying for a seat on the District 2 Educational Council as I believe I have a tremendous wealth of knowledge and passion to improve and enrich the education of my son, his peers and future students receive. Upon years of research comparing programs in District 2 schools as well as G&T programs I've been able to greatly enhance our son's educational experience. I am the new head of the recently formed STEM committee which has added several programs in science and math at his school. In the near future we plan to focus on technology such as programming and keyboarding. I've found countless free resources around NYC ready and able to offer programs in schools or for educational class trips to enhance the curriculum. I have the knowledge, energy, passion and devotion to help improve and enrich the current curriculum and have been seeking the proper forum for some time. When not focusing on enriching my son's education, I am the Director of External Medical Communications at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and chaperone chess tournaments.

**Candidate: Glenda Rosado**

**DBN: 02M002**

**IEP/ELL: IEP**

## **Applicant Background**

I have taken a couple of workshops with Henry Street Settlement and with Educational Alliance. I'm very involved in my son's school and I'm also in my school's SLT and PTA committee.

## **Personal Statement**

I would love to be part of this council. My son gets speech and OT and is in a CTT class. I also volunteer and help in my daughter's class. She also attends P.S. 2 but she is only in Pre-K and is in a general ed class. My son has come a very long way. He is almost at grade level in reading but still struggles with math. He is a very kind and sweet boy. I would just like to be involved so I can be of some help to parents and children who have gone or are going through what my son has and will go through. I want to help and be my son's voice.

**Candidate: Kim Marie Deming**

**DBN: 02M111**

**IEP/ELL: IEP**

## **Applicant Background**

## **Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Claude Arpels**

**DBN:** 02M234

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

Board member and committee co-chair of Taste of Tribeca (fundraiser for ps 234 and ps 150) Cooking demonstrations and field trip chaperone

**Personal Statement**

I am a born-and-raised New Yorker and a Tribeca resident since 1996. I have seen the city and the neighborhood go through a significant transformation. I have also evolved along with the neighborhood. Now, with two young kids, I would like to be more involved in the community and with the schools, especially in light of all the overcrowding issues in the downtown schools. In addition, I am eager to learn about the school system and contribute any experience from my background as an entrepreneur that may be useful.

**Candidate: Jodi Lynn Schaiman**

**DBN:** 02M289

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

**Applicant Background**

-Advocacy on behalf of my child with special needs; -Navigated the NYC special education system; -Fully engaged in the IEP, CSE process; -Experienced the gamut of schools, including private, special education and public school systems; -Social Worker --Auto-immune disease Alopecia Areata counselor to adolescent and teens and their families; -Secretary to Youth Ambassador of The National Tourette Syndrome Association; - Lobbyist on Capitol Hill on behalf of the TSA-USA; -Support Group facilitator for the National Alopecia Areata Foundation. -Drug Abuse Counselor. Most recently the Secretary to the Youth Ambassador of the National Tourette Syndrome Association and recently lobbied on behalf of the TSA on Capitol Hill to her House and Senate representatives including the honorables Carolyn Maloney, Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand. Ms. Schaiman is a long-time resident of Manhattan. She has a teenage son educated within the Manhattan School System.

**Personal Statement**

In 1993 Ms. Schaiman earned a Master of Science in Real Estate, from New York University Real Estate Institute. Upon completing her MSRE, she began her own real estate consulting group. Her consulting services were immediately retained by Merrill Lynch. In 2009, Ms. Schaiman completed her second Masters level degree and holds an MSW and CASAC-T from Fordham University School of Social Service. While completing her MSW degree, Ms. Schaiman founded If I Only Had My Hair, Inc., a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization. She facilitates the monthly support meetings for the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, at Weill Cornell Medical Center, in New York City. She has published and been quoted in

several news publications in regards to the psychological implications of hair loss. Most recently she became the Secretary to the Youth Ambassador of the National Tourette Syndrome Association and recently lobbied on behalf of the TSA on Capitol Hill to her House and Senate representatives including the honorables Carolyn Maloney, Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand. Ms. Schaiman is a long-time resident of Manhattan. She has a teenage son educated within the Manhattan School System.

**Candidate: Eric Goldberg**

**DBN:** 02M116

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I have served as a member of Community Education Council District 2 for the past two years. I have co-chaired both the zoning and community outreach committees. Through my work at a corporate foundation, I spend significant time working on education issues and collaborating with organizations working to improve student achievement.

### **Personal Statement**

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and your schools over the past two years as a member of the CEC. For me, serving on the Council has been about helping parents and children. Time spent on the phone working through a school waitlist, trying to navigate the enrollment process or dealing with a special education issue is where CEC members add the most value. I have advocated for those issues most important to our children; overcrowding, high-stakes testing, school budgets and parent input. I have represented the CEC at PEP, CB and charter co-location meetings. Importantly, I have executed on the work required of the CEC -- as the co-chair of the zoning committee, I have led the CEC through 5 zoning proposals. We have worked to enhance the process by increasing community feedback, enhancing analytical rigor and increasing lead time. I have brought energy and new ideas to the Council by raising the issue of Pre-K capacity and developing new communication platforms. Two issues I will focus on in the next term are Middle School capacity/ admissions and community development. I hope that I have returned your trust with passionate advocacy, a patient ear and an unwavering commitment. Contact me at [ericgoldberg@yahoo.com](mailto:ericgoldberg@yahoo.com)

**Candidate: Naomi Robinson**

**DBN:** 02M033

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I served as a PTA secretary which entailed scheduling PTA meetings, arranging for child care, fundraising, promoting educational activities after school functions to raise cultural awareness and appreciation of others in a diverse student body. I served one year as an SLT member. I was a Block Association President and organized the first Block Party after twenty five years. I organized with the help of high school

students a hotel and my neighbours who were local artist to come together to paint a graffitied wall and make a mural.

### **Personal Statement**

It takes one moment to change somones life and one moment to help someone believe that they can do or be anything.

### **Candidate: Thomas Falls**

**DBN:** 02M397

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I have served as a PS 150 PTA member at large (2008) for one year and fundraising chairperson for two years at PS 150 (2009-2010). I also worked with the PS 150 PTA on Taste of Tribeca and on their auction committee securing donations for 3 years. My son transferred to MS397 in 2011 (for 2nd grade) where I continued to help with fundraising and worked on their auction for donations. Most recently, I served as President of the PTA at Spruce and have been central in raising donations for their upcoming auction on May 11, 2013.

### **Personal Statement**

My name is Tom Falls and I've lived in Tribeca since 1994. I have served on my son's school PTA, from member at large to PTA president, since 2008. I have been active in raising donations for auction and funds for PS 150, M397 and the Downtown Manhattan Youth Center since it's opening. I Have also coached soccer, baseball and basketball downtown since 2010. I believe strongly that all of our children need options to fulfill their respective potentials. They need to be exposed to as many educational, cultural and athletic experiences as can be presented to them. I've noticed that, in my experience with our kids, the more you raise their own internal expectations for themselves by demonstrating the possible the more they motivate themselves to excel. I want to do my part to strengthen our District 2 schools and their children. I also want to draw attention to policy makers on making space for children in middle school downtown. I'm also hopeful that more funds can be budgeted for teachers continuing education programs to maximize their ability to educate & motivate the children they work with every day. All best, Tom Falls

### **Candidate: Son "Sonni" Mun**

**DBN:** 02M397

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

When my son started kindergarten this past fall I volunteered for various PTA events, became Co-Secretary on the PTA EB when previous office holder resigned, and whenever there was a need for parents to help out I have made myself available. I have financially contributed to the public residential magnet high school I attended, The Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. I am a physician and have supported various medical student led initiatives for the community. I volunteered as a preceptor and medical provider for a medical student run free health care clinic that mostly cared for undocumented immigrants. I also volunteered for a medical student led initiative at a local needle exchange facility that provided free hepatitis screening, vaccinations, and taught harm reduction techniques to the clients. When I took an extended maternity leave after the birth of my son I volunteered for Doctors of the World-USA now known as Health Right International which provided medical and psychological care for survivors of torture and helped write medical affidavits so the survivors could obtain political asylum.

## **Personal Statement**

I am grateful to public education for enabling me to become a physician 20 years after immigrating to this country. My own education experiences, good and bad, have taught me how profound education is in whether our children will grow and thrive, not just academically, but as community members. Besides my personal experiences in school, my professional background as a physician also makes me an excellent candidate for the CEC. As a physician educator including serving as a fellowship co-director, I participated in local and national programs to develop innovative curricula, mentor trainees, and instruct medical providers on content and teaching methods. While the CEC is directed to primary and secondary schools, I believe the principles I have applied in medical education are important whether the student is 25 or 5. Finally, I believe what most makes me qualified, and the reason I would most like to serve on the CEC, is that I am the concerned mother of a 6 year old in our wonderful local public school. I have stopped working outside of the home so that I can devote myself fully to raising our son. And I believe that part of raising and caring for my son is participating in and contributing to the improvement of our community.