

Community Education Council – District 20

Candidates

Candidate: Nadia Chibani

DBN: 20K176

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am a PTA board member at PS 176 The Ovington School since 9/2012, I am Public Relations Liaison.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Christopher Bryant Sichler

DBN: 20K102

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Since kindergarden I have been an active volenteer with learning leaders, school garden, most of all the school activites. I have been Vice President of PTA one year and President for two years. I have sat on SLT and have been part of DLT both for one year. I am at this moment serving my last year as PTA President and am looking for a more positive way to serve my childrens educational experience.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Zi Yi Pan

DBN: 20K105; 20K187

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been a Community Education Council member of District 20 for 5 years and have been a member of School Leadership Team for 7 years.

Personal Statement

I want to continue to serve our school community to make our district schools the best places for our children for many years to come.

Candidate: Mason Ali Mohamed

DBN: 20K030

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am a graduate of the NYC school system. I got my BA degree from John Jay University. Currently I am working as a supervisor with NYC DOS.

Personal Statement

I am a husband and the father of three kids two great boys and a lovely girl. My two kids attend I.S. 30 middle school and I am part of their school's PTA. I currently serve as that school's PTA Vice President. I am looking forward to working with the CEC and DOE on ways to help improve our public schools.

Candidate: Robert Douglas Hudock

DBN: 20K503

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

As the parent of a special needs child, I have been very involved in making sure that my daughter receives the appropriate services needed to help her achieve her maximum potential since long before she entered the public school system. I was a PTA member at her daycare and have served as both VP and now President of the PTA at her current school, PS 503 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. In addition, I serve in the following civic organizations: - Secretary of the District 20 PTA President's Council. - Member of Community Board 10 in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, since July of 2010, where I am currently the Chair of the Sanitation Committee. - CB10 representative to the Brooklyn Borough President's Fourth Avenue Redevelopment Task Force in the capacity of Task Force Secretary. The Task Force has been very successful in implementing a plan to reduce pedestrian injuries along Fourth Avenue. - Chair of the South Brooklyn Subcommittee of Transportation Alternatives, a citywide transit advocacy group. - Member of the Riders Alliance, a new group seeking to increase funding for mass transit. - Member of the Bay Ridge Democrats Club, serving as a volunteer on a number of local political campaigns.

Personal Statement

As a citizen of Brooklyn and of the US, I have benefited tremendously from the opportunities this society provided me. I feel a moral obligation to ensure that every child in this community has more

opportunities than I had. This sense of citizenship has motivated me throughout my life. If I am elected to serve on the CEC, I will listen to a wide range of stakeholders throughout the District, personally visiting schools and soliciting feedback. I will see for myself how the children are faring. The people in these schools will know my face and know that I am dedicated to their children's academic progress. Another role of the CEC is to assess the effect of the District's educational programs. While I am not an expert in the field of education, I do have a daughter in the first grade. I do homework with her every day. I have skin in the game. I can see for myself how these educational programs are working and I have the energy and the dedication to push for constant improvements. For all of these reasons, I ask you to vote for me to represent you on the District 20 Community Education Council. It will be an honor to serve you, and I will always be available to listen to your concerns. Thank you.

Candidate: Meander Yin Ping Cheng

DBN: 20K205

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have served on District 20's Community Education Council for the past 4 years and hope to continue my service to our community. I serve on the School Leadership Team at PS205. I also serve as a liaison to the non English speaking parents and our schools with any education needs.

Personal Statement

After having served on the CEC for the past 4 years, I have found the experience to be very fulfilling to help out in the community especially in our schools. I believe that it is important for parents to be involved and active in our education system, and to make sure that our voices are heard. I would like to continue serving on the Community Education Council to help our children and schools to make sure quality education in place.

Candidate: Sheila Higginson

DBN: 20K104

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am serving my second term as a member of District 20's CEC. I am also a member of P.S. I.S. 104's School Leadership Team. In my work as an educator and writer, I specialize in early childhood education and English Language Learners.

Personal Statement

I look forward to serving the parents and students in District 20 by serving another term on the Community Education Council.

Candidate: Amany Naseif

DBN: 20K176

IEP/ELL: ELL

Applicant Background

I have experience with the English Language Learner population. I was an English teacher in Egypt for more than 4 years teaching English as a Second Language to students in elementary school who spoke Arabic. I also was the Extracurricular Activities Coordinator which I taught various subjects such as Home Economics, Art, Health and Computers. Civic activities include my representing the Association at the General Secretariat of Catholic Schools in Egypt for more than 4 years.

Personal Statement

I would like to serve on the CEC so that I can help all of our children and to help them succeed in school. I believe parents need to work with our schools to raise children who will be good members of our society and humanitarians. My family and I have just recently immigrated to the United States this past summer and I strongly believe in getting involved and becoming an active member of our community.

Candidate: Tatyana Segal

DBN: 20K176

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

In 2011, I volunteered for APEX, Asian Professional Extension, Inc., as a fourth grade math mentor of PS 1 students, some of which were English Language Learners. In September 2012, I co-hosted the Voting Rights and Heating Law Discussion with the Brighton Neighborhood Association director, Pat Singer. At the discussion, I provided the audience with the information concerning their polling places and voting registration process. In January 2013, I canvassed areas affected by Hurricane Sandy, conducting the Legal Services NYC Sandy Community Survey and providing information and legal assistance for victims of Sandy. As a mother of two boys, I am concerned about their safety and am advocating for the expansion of "Safe Stop" program. I have also been advocating, on behalf of Russian-speaking parents, for the creation of the bilingual Russian Gifted and Talented program in District 21, similar to the popular and competitive Globe Program in District 20 by reaching out to District 21 Superintendent, parents, and elected officials. In 2007-2008, I also tutored several Asian school-aged children in art and successfully prepared some of them for a competitive exam at Mark Twain JH School for the Gifted and Talented.

Personal Statement

Having served on CEC for 2 years, I am running again because I believe my voice is valuable among diverse voices of other advocates, since it is formed by my immigrant background, education in technical and legal fields, and experiences in private and public interest sectors. As an immigrant, I attended ESL

classes at FDR HS. Later on I attained a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Brooklyn College. After a decade on Wall St., I am pursuing my JD degree at CUNY School of Law. In 2011, I interned at Legal Services NYC, assisting low-income New Yorkers. In 2012, I interned at the Family Court, where I assisted litigants in child custody, adoptions, juvenile delinquency, and domestic violence. As a member of the Council, I participate in zoning meetings and debates on the latest policies adopted by the Chancellor. I submitted comments at the PEP hearing concerning the amendments to the DOE regulations and their effect on NY Education Law. I am a parent of 2 boys. My older son's education encompassed Delta program, Mark Twain JH, and Stuyvesant HS; while my 5th grader enjoys PS 176's string orchestra and band. I believe my experiences and skills will make me an excellent CEC member.

Candidate: Nosheen Khurram

DBN: 20K200

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am serving as a volunteer for the above mentioned school from past 3 years , serving as an active learning leader in the school from 2011 till now, parent member of the school leadership team for 2 years, recording secretary of PTA for the year 2013. actively participates in all areas where school required my services other than bake sales, fundraising activities, surveys distribution campaigns, class helper, so on and so forth.

Personal Statement

"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you."

Candidate: Gentiana Shameti

DBN: 20K176; 20K259

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I like to be involved on my kids education. I view the quality of education as important as the quality of foods that my kids eat every day. I would like to become a voice of NYC kids and their parents to ensure that our kids get the best education possible, which will help them to succeed later in life.

Candidate: Marie Leone

DBN: 20K176

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was a substitute para professional a year ago

Personal Statement

Our children come first. Education is a top priority, as a single mom of 2 girls I feel i need to be a voice for them in our education system.

Candidate: Sonja Edwards

DBN: 20K030; 20K048

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was once a general education teacher who specialized in teaching students with disabilities. I always attend panels about policy that are given in schools (PTA) about special education. I also attend DOH classes to educate myself on techniques for students w/ disabilities.

Personal Statement

I believe that I would be a good addition to serve on the Community Education Council because I have personal and educational experience that makes me a good candidate. I have worked with a number of PTA's and community based groups such as CAMBA for the betterment of children and their education. I have a vested interest to see that my community's children thrive in school and beyond.

Candidate: Roland Roberts

DBN: 20K030

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have served as the I.S. 30 PTA Treasurer for two years, and the President for another two. I am currently the co-president of the District 20 President's council and have been attending most CEC meetings for the past four years. I have also regularly represented District 20 at the monthly Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council meetings for the past three years. I have run after school clubs at

PS 102, 3 different astronomy clubs and one science club, and have volunteered in science outreach activities through the Rockland Astronomy Club for the past several years. I am currently also serving as an assistant scout-master with BSA Troop 13 here in Brooklyn.

Personal Statement

I have always had a strong interest in public education and my wife and I are both products of the public education system. We deliberately chose the public schools over various alternatives including making the commitment to be involved in the process as volunteers. My own background, as a Ph.D. in physics, comes with a strong interest in education in the sciences and math and in being active in the community to insure that our public education system is strongly supported in these areas. While the CEC has no legal authority in these areas, the District 20 CEC has had a long history of moral authority in talking to city government and local officials in supporting the needs of our schools and their communities. It is my aim to continue that tradition. The children we educate today are quite literally the future of our community and supporting public education is one of the best investments we can make into our own futures.

Candidate: Dina Gangemi

DBN: 20K185; 20K201

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have served on the CEC for the past 6 years.

Personal Statement

I have served on the CEC for the past 6 years. Being an advocate for the student of District 20 is very fulfilling. Every child needs a voice and I feel very proud to be a part of the CEC to have my voice heard. And I hope to continue serving on the CEC for District 20.

Candidate: Laurie Windsor

DBN: 20K229; 20K259

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Community: Community Board 11, Ragamuffin Parade Committee SLT New Utrecht HS, SLT IS259
Community Education Council District 20 DLT D20 Special Education

Personal Statement

This is my 8th year on the CEC for District 20. We've had many new schools open, both in new construction and existing buildings. Working with SCA has been rewarding, especially for the children who have benefitted from the new schools. Overcrowding is still an issue in certain hot spots of our district. So for the next term, I will need to find one more site for another school and continue to work with Portfolio on our overcrowding issues. Also, for the next term, need to oversee the smooth opening of the new 30 building, the beginning construction of the 170 addition and the split siting of 170 to facilitate this. I would also like to continue offering the Special Education workshops that I started a few years ago which have not only turned out to help our parents but also school staff who attend every session.

Candidate: Evie Rabeck

DBN: 20K686

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a current elected member of Community Education Council 20, from 2011 - present. Prior to this I was Co-President of PS/IS 686's parent/teacher organization, BSI PTO, from 2009 - 2011. I recently chaired BSI's Healthy Foods Committee. I am a Learning Leader and I continue to be active and volunteer at BSI. I have first-hand experience with both the G&T population and students with IEPs and special needs.

Personal Statement

I have very much enjoyed my past two years' tenure on CEC20, and I feel like I've only begun to learn all there is to know about this district! I would love the opportunity to continue on the council and build upon the work we've done. I have two sons, both of whom have IEPs and one of whom is a G&T student as well, so I am well versed in how to advocate not only for each of my children's unique needs, but for the most appropriate education for *all* our kids in District 20. I thank you for taking the time to read the candidates' statements, and for voting!

Candidate: Eric Anthony DiNapoli

DBN: 20K682

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am an active member of the community, and currently serve on Community Board 11. On the board I sit on the public safety, and zoning committees. I am an attorney, by profession, and a former Assistant District Attorney for Kings County. During my tenure as an Assistant District Attorney, I served in a trial bureau whose geographical jurisdiction included the 62 precinct (Bath Beach and Bensonhurst). I resigned from the Office of the District Attorney in 2010, and formed the law firm DiNapoli & Corbo, P.C.

Personal Statement

As the proud parent of two children who attend PS 682 The Academy of Talented Scholars, and the husband of a wonderful woman and excellent educator at PS 200, I have grown familiar with the progress and successes of our local educational community. I have also come to realize, as an outside observer, that our educational system must be fluid and ever changing in order to adapt to needs of Brooklyn. Brooklyn, and particularly our district, has always been a great "melting pot". It brings people from diverse cultures, from far corners of the planet, to near corners of Bensonhurst and Bath Beach. Where is that interaction, that wonderful melding of cultures, languages, and ideas, more apparent than in our schools? As a life-long Brooklyn resident, as a Father of two district 20 students, the Husband of an educator, and as an attorney by profession, I feel that I would be well suited to serve on the CEC. I look forward to learning, contributing, and helping our children grow educationally. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Candidate: Andrea Lawrence**DBN:** 20K200**IEP/ELL:** N/A**Applicant Background**

I have been a part of the CEC for several years. I am aware of the students needs in our district.

Personal Statement

I believe that the education of our students is the foundation of our neighborhoods.

Candidate: Umar Hayat Bal**DBN:** 20K748**IEP/ELL:** ELL**Applicant Background**

promote the role of parents to enrol in schools and promote schools students abblites.

Personal Statement

parents perform good role with teachers and school administration.

Candidate: Robert Yee

DBN: 20K682

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been PTO President of PS 682 for 3 years and a member of the school's SLT. I have also served as member of Community Board 11 for 2 years.

Personal Statement

Currently, I am a third term PTO President of PS 682, as well as a member of Community Board 11 and seek election onto District 20's CEC. I work in the legal field as an in-house attorney for a toy and collectibles company with brand managing duties entailing the supervision of artists, designers and overseas manufacturing vendors. I was born into an immigrant family with deep roots in the heart of Brooklyn and was a product of New York City's unparalleled public school system. I have 2 young children attending school in District 20 where I have served as president of their school board for 3 years. I wish to continue to invest in the betterment of the community and the school system by becoming a member of District 20's CEC. As a member of the CEC I hope to utilize my unique skill set and experiences as a parent leader to aid and assist the council in facing the mounting challenges of the ever dynamic and thriving District 20.

Candidate: Michelle Kennedy

DBN: 20K102

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have volunteered for multiple activities with the PTA including the Book Fairs, Garden, reading to students on Arbor Day, leading activities during Turn Off the TV week; I have volunteered and chaperoned multiple school trips with my children's classes; hosted fundraisers for Superstorm Sandy Relief in the community, teach yoga (to adults and children) at local preschool and dance studio.

Personal Statement

As a parent of two children in district 20, PS 102 and as a yoga teacher in the community, working with many parents and children, I feel like I have a finger on the pulse of what parents want and children need within this school and district. With my daughter in 3rd grade, we are going through the ELA test preparation this year too. I believe that the focus of her education has turned entirely toward test preparation and less on learning the basic skills. I do see that there have been changes since she was in 1st grade and my son is learning skills she didn't that will help him later on for testing, but he has lost a bit of the playful or social experience that is important for 6 and 7 year olds. I believe my ideas and opinions would be an asset to the Education Council and that I believe our children could benefit from a variety of changes in school, including longer school days, but added enrichment programs and free/play time.