

Community Education Council – District 25

Candidates

Candidate: Jacqueline Colson

DBN: 25Q201

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am always supportive of any schools my children attend. I have been an active Learning Leader since 2004. I'm also a member of the New York City Parents Union. My goal is always to educate and empower parents.

Personal Statement

I have been an active D25 CEC member since 2010. I have always been inclusive to all in our community. When important issues arrive I inform any and every parent that I encounter and explain the importance of getting involved. I am not afraid to take on any social issue for the good of the community and our children. I will be a strong and independent voice for those who are seldom heard.

Candidate: Gabriella Scaldaferrri-Sofsky

DBN: 25Q169

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am currently a NYS general education teacher, for the past 17 years. I have had the privilege and opportunity to teach general education students, english language learners and special education students. I also hold a NYS school administrative degree. In addition to my role as an educator I am currently serving as Vice President of the Robinwood Property Association. In this position I am awarded many opportunities to work alongside council members and other community members.

Personal Statement

I have a communal enthusiasm that I would like to share with the NYC school district. I also feel that with my years of experience as a school teacher and with my school administrative degree, I have been awarded the necessary tools and understanding, to become a community school board member.

Candidate: Gina D'Angelo

DBN: 25Q079

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Both of my children have received NYC Early Intervention and CPSE services. Soon they will both be receiving support from the NYC CSE: my 1st grader is in the ICT class at P.S. 79 and my other child will be entering P.S. 79 next year Kindergarten ICT Class. I was an NYC Early Intervention Service Coordinator for 1 year and am now the Compliance/Quality Assurance Officer at a Preschool that has Early Intervention and CPSE ICT Classrooms. I also worked in the NYC Criminal Courts for 10 years as the Domestic Violence/Sex Offense/Child Abuse Resource Coordinator for the Judges in those court parts. I assisted victims of crimes and placed offenders in various programs.

Personal Statement

I agree with the proverb "It takes a village to raise a child". We must work as a community to provide all we can for our children so they can reach their greatest potentials. I consider myself a very resourceful person. I hope that with my knowledge and drive I will help District 25 become a supportive and resourceful district for our community.

Candidate: Anthony Alfred Caponera

DBN: 25Q032

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was elected to the SLT committee serving one term between 2010-2012 at PS32Q. I currently serve on the PTA Executive Board in PS32Q. My other child is a special needs child and attends a district 75 school in Queens.

Personal Statement

Today are extremely trying times for students, teachers and administrators. In addition to fiscal challenges and responsibilities, we are also in the process of implementing the new, common core standards, a nation-wide effort of standardizing curricula in this nation's public schools that will ready our children for higher education and other ventures. Since its adoption, teachers have been acquiring and using the skills and knowledge required to meet these new standards. Our goal would be to support the teachers and principals who are on the front lines of this new endeavor as well as provide support to the administrative functionaries responsible of reviewing the performance of these entities. I have a child with special needs as well as work in the healthcare industry where I have direct contact with this population of individuals, their caretakers and family. Our responsibilities of teaching special needs individuals, whether in academics or activities of daily living, should not be compromised by budgets

having no basis in reality or undermine our capacity to deliver essential services to these individuals . It will be an obligation to assure the continuation of essential services to this very special population.

Candidate: Nicholas Corrado

DBN: 25Q079; 25Q294

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Current CEC 25 President Community Board #7 Member

Personal Statement

I would liked to continue as a community activist. Parent engagement is necessary more than ever before. I would be effective because of my three years experience with the CEC

Candidate: Marie J. Charles

DBN: 25Q281

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have two children in East-West School of International Studies in Flushing Queens. I am Deputy Director of an community organization serving a large immigrant population. As a result I have particular interest in the educational needs of the English Language Learner. I am also a former NYC DOE teacher.

Personal Statement

I am very much interested in serving on the Educational Council. I have two sons currently in middle school and my daughter was previously in the NYC school system, graduated two years ago, and is now doing well in college. I am very interested in ensuring that my sons as well as other students are getting a quality education. As a Deputy Director of a human service organization serving a large immigrant population, I am particularly interested in the education of English Language Learners. As a former math teacher, I know firsthand the challenges our children face. I understand these challenges from the perspective of a teacher, a community leader, and more importantly as a parent. I welcome the opportunity to serve on the Educational Council.

Candidate: Kim Montgomery

DBN: 25Q130

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have served in the following during the 2011-13 term: CEC D 25 as a parent member for 1 year & served CEC D 25 as the vice president for about a year. School Leadership Team for 2 years @ PS 130, attended & visited District 25 schools, PTA meetings, school special events, Quality Review, provided educational & community events, DOE & District updates to schools & parents. Served on the sub-committee of the Parent Empowerment in 2011 & Chaired Parent Empowerment in 2012, attended Community Board 8 for 1 year, District 25 President Council, District 25 District Leadership Team, UFT Parent Workshop & Conferences, attended community & educational events at Flushing Civic Association, NAACP events, Queenboro Hill Neighborhood Assoc., North East Queens Branch & Youth Council, Parsons Beacon Program, National Night Out, Queens Library, Alley Pond Environmental Center, & drafted & passed a resolution in District 25.

Personal Statement

I would enjoy continuing to serve on the CEC D 25 because I am passionate & supportive about our districts educational goals in striving towards excellence & community endeavors and I am a strong advocate for our parents & children's concerns in our community. I feel my role as a parent, my professional experience of 20 years as a social worker & my experiences in the CEC D 25 for 2 years and serve one year as vice president would make me a viable candidate to continue to provide a dedicated & committed service in District 25 and community.

Candidate: Carrie-Jo Sexton

DBN: 25Q129

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I love my childrens elementary school. I have always felt welcome. We try to attend all of the PTA meetings. I participate in all the book sales, bake sales, candy sales. i like to voluteer for chaparoning trips and dances. When we are invited to the classroom for holiday parties or presentations I try to always attend. I belong to the UFT Parent Bookclub for four years. I always go to Parent Conferences. I feel strongly about being involved with my childs education and making sure the teachers know I support them and appreciate them. Other civic duties for me include voluteering for the Cubscouts as an assistant leader, Pack 255. Also I have worked the elections as a poll worker for the past three years.

Personal Statement

I would love to become more involved with the schools on the ground level. Being on the board or council of the school district would be a rewarding experience for me. I also feel I can bring a sound voice to the meetings. I care a great deal about the future of our children and this country and would try very hard to get any good ideas and suggestions heard at the meeting and pass on the information to my many friends and neighbors with school age children who also care a great deal. Please consider me for this opportunity.

Candidate: Paul Corrales

DBN: 25Q219

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I currently volunteer my time as a Board Member and Sophomore Commissioner at Forest Hills Youth Activities Association. During the Basketball Season from October - February I coach Basketball, most recently in the Sophomore Division which I lead my team to the championship. The age group in our league ranges from 8 all the way up to 18 years of age. Our mission is to promote fitness, discipline, friendship, team work and competition. During the off season we meet to plan ahead of time on how to make our league better for the children. All volunteers donate our time with one thing in common, THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN.

Personal Statement

As a resident of District 25 for the last 9 years I feel the need to get involved in the Community Education Council for District 25. My two boys attend PS 219; my oldest son is in 7th and my youngest in 5th grade, both since PRE-K. Our school standard is one of the best I have seen. Students at our school have been blessed with great teachers. A few years ago our school welcomed our new principal who is also great at what he does with an Open door approach to all parents looking for advice or trying to resolve student issues. I would like to serve in our District CEC to maintain what we have not only at PS 219 but also in all of our schools in of District 25. I want to be a voice to convey that message and support from our parents. Please vote for me! Sincerely, Paul J Corrales

Candidate: Seham Etouni

DBN: 25Q107

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Ruchika Chauhan

DBN: 25Q237

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Cornel Anthony Cobourne

DBN: 25Q129; 25Q194

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

In the past i have never sat on any Civic Activities. However, i am currently serving as a Minister of clergy, a member of the Board of ministers and a license New York State Chaplain in my community.

Personal Statement

I am interested in becomming a member of the education council. i strongly belive, that parents should be invole in children Education; the day to day decission regulations that the Department of Education Conclude on. If i am elected as a part of the Educational Council, as a Father of four children and a Uncle i would like to make a difference in New York State Educational system. Therefore, our Children should have a clearer understanding on a subject such as Math, There are many student that are struggling in this area we need to get a system that will work for them.

Candidate: Durpatie Shanta Budhram

DBN: 25Q189

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Mother of two children .PTA President, School Leadership Team, District Leadership Team, President Council member, Learners Leader member, and vice president for PTA JHS 189Q and CEC member.

Personal Statement

I am a mother of two children. These two children needs to have a functional and successful education. A degree which will enable them to be financinal stable. If i can give my .children the support to make a diffrence in their life. I would like the Department Of Education to give me the opportunity to help our students and their families. I will be there to help parents with the Chancellor's regulation. Help to educate them of the Learners Leaders , The School Leadership Team. Workshops with the cirriculum. Parents should be involved in their childrens' education and most of all work colobaratively with the teachers, school professionals, Superintendent and the School Safety this will make a difference in our school and our children's life.

Candidate: Bernadette Taylor

DBN: 25Q499

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am a member of the current Community Education Council for district 25. As a member, I communicate with schools and attend information seminars. I believe that my most important function is to create a forum where parents can voice their concerns and then ensure that those concerns are addressed to the best of my ability. I believe that reaching out to every facet of our community is the only way to effectuate meaningful improvements. I am sensitive to the cultural diversity that is uniquely Queens. Last term I asked for your vote. I promised that I would work hard for you, and I have. The issues that are of most concern to me presently are as follows: 1-Qualified teachers remaining in the classroom 2-Class size and school safety 3-Literacy and Math improvements 4-Providing schools that not only teach but also empower the minds of all our youngsters, so that they can learn and teach themselves. Today, I ask for your vote again. Together we will raise the bar so that our vision of the public school is recognized.

Personal Statement

By way of introduction, my name is Bernadette Taylor. I am the mother of three beautiful children, two who attend school in district 25. A single parent, who juggled a full time job, while caring for her family, raised me. I, along with every other parent, want the best for our children and worry about their academic future. Although I believe that we have a great educational system, it has flaws. The Department of Education has tremendous power over the direction a student's life will take. Early determination and/or labeling can be a foundation for great success or a life sentence with almost no possibility for parole. It is the partnership between schools, parents and children that will determine whether the academic experience is positive or negative. All parties need to step up and be accountable for our shared future. If you vote for me, I will do my part to ensure that our schools remain great and keep improving.

Candidate: Lisa M. DeTrano

DBN: 25Q242

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

My son is special education student at P.S. 242 Queens. I am also a Family Law attorney who practices in an area of law in which the special needs of the child(ren) must be considered as well as the abilities of the parents in best addressing those needs. This has required me to become familiar with programs, services, and other information relevant to both special needs children and to the needs of typically developing children both in the home and in the school environment. I was born and raised in Queens and attended NYC public schools for my education. After completing public school, I attended the City University of New York (CUNY) for both college and law school.

Personal Statement

I am most committed to making sure that the public schools in our community and our city address the needs of twice exceptional children- those children that are very bright but have disabilities that often interfere with their potential. At this point, parents and children must choose whether to address the

disability or address the giftedness and programs that address both together must be established to provide an appropriate education to our children. With the rising rates of autism, ADHD, and other disabilities, this issue is at the forefront of our kids' educational and developmental needs. I am very committed to instituting some change to the current options for our children and making them better suited to meet the needs of our children.

Candidate: Dilipkumar Chauhan

DBN: 25Q237

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Lelieth Angella Toppin

DBN: 25Q169

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I am a proud product of the New York City Public School system. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, where as a child I attended PS 233, and then Meyer Levin JHS (now IS 285). Upon graduating from Samuel J. Tilden High School I enrolled at The City College of New York, where I obtained a Bachelors Degree in Pre-Law. I later attended New York University where I obtained a Masters Degree in Speech and Interpersonal Communication. Currently, I am a stay at home mother. With three young children, the oldest of which is now enrolled in the kindergarten program at our local public school, I strongly feel the need to become more involved in his education and in the community at large. I am willing to make myself available to attend meetings and keep an open mind on all issues. Please consider my application to serve at this time. Lelieth Angella Toppin

Candidate: Raymond Lee

DBN: 25Q185

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

served as a panelist for FY 2013 Manhattan Community Grant Program (MCGP), and previously served as a President and as Secretary for NYC Citywide Education Council on English Language Learners until February 2012 when I was too busy to participate / attend

Personal Statement

I would like to serve on a Community Education Council because our school system is currently facing many great challenges, and because I would like to create enhanced avenues for Asian parents and families to receive accurate and timely information, as well as offering meaningful input as new policies are implemented. As you know, sufficient input from parents, teachers, and advocates are vital to the success of our education system. Many of you will agree that those with the most at stake in the education system are currently frustrated and confused. Schools need to know what parents care about: smaller class size, skilled, dedicated teachers, curricula that engage and challenge their kids and a system that welcome parental input. I have always believed that recruiting skilled, dedicated teachers, reducing class size, and creating a meaningful after school activities are important and necessary for the success of the future of each of our school children as well as the future of our community and city. Some of you may know, the current recruiting process is frustrating and confusing.

Candidate: Vidisha Prasad

DBN: 25Q242

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

A full time mother with a successful leadership background I happen to run an informal Science Club by the name "PIANET Sci Tech". The Science Club is a free program for a small group of motivated kids Contribute to Jack n Jill school as a parent's monthly session on Introducing Math concepts/ Stories on Morals and Good Behaviour Past Professional Experience:- 1. HDFC STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.; New Delhi, India Branch Manager (2001-2006) 2. SENTAC SALES (SBI CARDS); Jaipur, India Operations Manager (1999-2001) Additional experience as Marketing Manager (Dainik Bhasker India), and Junior Researcher (Credence India) EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND MUMBAI UNIVERSITY; Mumbai, India Diploma in Economics Technical Proficiencies: Basic Project management NYU, Windows-based Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint

Personal Statement

I introduce myself as Vidisha Prasad, a mother of two with a diploma in Economics and a background in management / leadership As a parent I do believe that better "Parent-Education system" communication is not only a requirement but a strong need, particularly in a culturally diversified environment such as New York. In my pursuit to contribute to the society I happen to run an informal Science Club which is a free program for a small group of motivated kids and is based on the following belief:- 1. Scientific Content introduced in a fun and interactive manner. 2. Attitude or Disposition: kindling curiosity, cultivating desire to experiment, Challenge theories, share new ideas , identify and contribute to the societal needs for Technology 3 Simple Engineering Design Process identifying a societal need for technology., (Requirement, research, possible approaches), Pick Best Approach, develop design Prototype, begin production. I wish to serve the Education Council's purpose with my highest level of commitment.