

Community Education Council – District 29

Candidates

Candidate: Rafaelina Stefanidis

DBN: 29Q208

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Regine M. George

DBN: 29Q498

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Nicole Nelson-Hammond

DBN: 29Q270

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently in 2nd term as 1st VP of PTA for 270Q. I have been actively involved in the district 29 community since Assemblywoman Cynthia Jenkins was in office. I was a concerned citizen since advocating for justice as a senior in HS.

Personal Statement

I am a wife and mother of two girls. I am a business owner who lives and works in the district 29 community. I have a passion for people and for service. I believe in being part of the solution to enhance our community and schools. Instead of fleeing your neighborhood to a "better district" I'd rather insist on improving our own community. When concerned citizens leave because the grass is greener in another neighborhood, then get there and do for that neighborhood what you wouldn't do in your

own..baffling. I'm here to step up and say if not me then who? Let's focus on the goal and not the struggle. Choose me and let's work. "As long as you're going to be thinking...THINK BIG!"-N2

Candidate: Carol Kathy Taylor

DBN: 29Q059

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Granted the opportunity to mentor at risk teens with MercyFirst located in Far Rockaway, Queens New York.

Personal Statement

My name is Carol K. Taylor and I have lived in district 29 for over 30 years. My children have attended the schools in this district as well. This is an opportunity to offer more of my time and experience to the parents and students of this community. When my children were younger I waited on long lines, wrote letters and networked in the hopes of giving my children the best education. During it all, I have met great people who have assisted me in those struggles. I wish to do the same for others.

Candidate: Jessica Peoples

DBN: 29Q033

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have previously held a position as a PTA executive board secretary at another school. I have previously participated as a high school student representative on a leadership council, therefore, making me familiar with the process and how it works.

Personal Statement

Being a product of the District 29 school system, I am very aware of the benefits and challenges that the children and parents face in our community. I understand the changes in the economics of the community and subsequently the demographics. Even though I have gone abroad to receive post secondary education and gain knowledge through travel, I am forever drawn back home. Now having a daughter of my own, I want her to grow up developing a pride of self and community as I once had as a child living and flourishing in district 29. It is for this reason I have decided to apply for a position as a parent on the leadership committee. As a parent of a child in the public school system, I've learned that my influence does not and should not end at the kitchen table helping my daughter with her homework. It is my responsibility to influence every aspect of my child's development. It is my belief that you don't need fancy highbrow traditions or money to really learn, you just need people with the desire to better themselves. This is my desire for my child, my community, and my district.

Candidate: Adelaide Cecelia Chambers

DBN: 29Q208

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Pamela Marie Quintin

DBN: 29Q059

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have worked as certified level 3 Teaching Assistant for the past 10 years. I served the early childhood special education population for four years then served six years as an assistant and mentor for emotionally and behaviorally disturbed, special education adolescents between the ages of 14-21. I have also served on the PTA board for Merrick Academy Queens Public Charter school for three years when my daughter was a student there.

Personal Statement

I have lived in the district my entire life and I have also raised my children within the Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, and Rosedale community. I have a 16 year old son who is an honor student in District 28's Hillcrest High School, a 12 year old who is a 7th grader at IS 59 and a 2 year old son in day care right in the community. It has always been a passion of mine to serve young people within the community in which myself and my family is from. Being a teacher's assistant for ten years serving the Special Education population, as well as being a mother of three wonderful children has given me the motivation to invoke change in an education system that I have seen change a great deal from the time I was a student in the community to what I see happening now. My desire to be a part of the CEC in my community comes from the heart. I do believe that all my knowledge and experience gives me a head start on making a difference and assists me on being a true voice for the community. I was born here, raised here and my children are being raised here as well. I have a vested interest in seeing the community become what it once was. I'm not a politician; I'm a parent with the same hopes and vision for District 29 as you.

Candidate: Ericka Lisa Williams

DBN: 29Q116

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Current member of the CEC 29 council where I actively participate in District 29 Queens. We service the schools in our community, I was co-chair to the Special Education Workshop in January 2012 which was very successful. I was also very active in the voting process for Middle School Choice in D29 Queens.

Personal Statement

Supporting our community schools is very important to me! Being on the CEC 29Q has strengthen my drive to ensure that every child in elementary and middle schools in District 29Q recieve the best public education. Within our district there is so much room for improvement and I really want to help with that any way I can. Sometimes it is hard serving on the council as a working parent but it is all worth it when your are able to assist with change for the better for our children in the community.

Candidate: Julian P. Anderson-Jones

DBN: 29Q132

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

PTA PRESIDENT OF IS 238 SUSAN B ANTHONY 2010-2011 AND 2011-2012 PTA SECRETARY OF PS 132 CURRENTLY 2012-2013 ATTEND MOST DISTRICT MEETINGS, HAVE CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CURRENT COUNCIL PANNEL, VERY INVOLVED PARENT.

Personal Statement

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE DISTRICT 29 GO FORWARD AND NOT STAY INTO THE RUTT ITS IN NOW. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A CHANGE FOR THE POSITIVE AND I WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THAT PROCESS. IM PRO MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOICE AND WHEN I EXPERIENCED THE UP WAR AMONG THE COUNCIL BOARD IN REFERENCE TO THIS HUGE CHANGE IT UPSET ME. THIS DISTRICT NEEDS NEW LEADERS AND NEW IDEAS AND I BELIEVE IM ONE OF THE PEOPLE THAT CAN BE A HUGE INSTRUMENTAL PART OF THIS QUEST. PLEASE CONSIDER ME PART OF THE TEAM. IM KNOWN TO THE DISTRICT AS "MS JONES" THANK YOU.

Candidate: Cheryl Dunn-Rochelle

DBN: 29Q132

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am currently a CEC member. For the past year I have serve as the treasurer and is part of the capital plan, zoning and science fair committees. I am also a learning leader parent who volunteers time in the

school activities. I attended the superintendent DLT, Queens Borough President, The Division of Family and Community engagement Briefing, PTA, SLT meeting and Panel for Educational Policy public hearings. I advocated for Middle school choice which was voted in February 2012. I was part of the team that attended lobby day in Albany to discuss school co-location, closing/phase outs of schools, governance, and career and college readiness with the elected official I am a member of the Queens Community PTSA and have served two years as PTA president and three years on the SLT at my son school.

Personal Statement

I was voted in as a member to fill the second year of a two year term vacates. I would like to continue serving in the CEC, because during this past year I have visited schools and met principals, parents, parent leaders and more. By attending meetings and hearings, I see passionate parent who need help in navigating through the DOE system and I believed I can be the voice to advocate for their children. Getting middle school choice to pass is just the beginning of other accomplishments to come in our district. I would like to assist our school community to become more empowered about our children education.

Candidate: Yanick Humphrey

DBN: 29Q095; 29Q238

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I currently serve on the PTA at Humanities and the Arts HS, I am on the SLT at PS 95, I am the co chair of the parent athletic association at Campus Magnet Complex. I am a Sunday School teacher at my church and Youth Advisor. I am a member of the Laurelton LIONS club and an Advisor to the Laurelton LEOS

Personal Statement

I was raised in the NYC school system and I have so much to offer to help our students succeed. As a mother of 7 daughters whom which all are currently enrolled in NYC schools, I have only the best interest of our schools for our children's future. I am a Licensed Practical Nurse. I am an active member in my church. I am an advisor to the Laurelton LEOS and I work with the youth in our community. Provide support and mentoring to the youth in the community at Laurelton Library. I work very close with the teachers principals and coaches at my children's school. I have great interpersonal skills as I am a team player

Candidate: Nadia Michelle Bujhawan

DBN: 29Q095

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am a single mother of 5 children all in school at the public school, from pre-k to 5th grade. I have been an active volunteer for 3 yrs at P.S.95Q. Our school has 1400+ students and almost every classroom is 32+ students. The teachers are really great and do the best that they can. As a parent we have to do as much work as they do with my children and still it's hard for the children. They need more time with teachers. I taught high school kids in Trinidad and Tobago. We as Teachers had to do teacher training for 3 yrs, and be a trainee for 1 yr, also we had to do a lesson plan for each class/subject, before we enter the classroom/school. Here they spend 45/90 mins doing preps, while our children sits in the auditorium watching a movie or just sitting wasting vital time, than learning something important.

Personal Statement

I have been very active in my children's school also being a single mother of 5 children from 5th grade to pre-k. I live the reality of the education system and interact with parents everyday who have issues with certain areas in schools. Also culture is important to families in our communities. I would like to see some changes in the education so our children can be the best in the world. Grown up in a third world country like Guyana we always taught, America is the best in the world in everything. Today when I read statistics that we're not even in the top ten for education in the world, it breaks my heart. All over the world people look at us as the best let us show them we are the best and educate our children for the future. I believe it has to start from elementary. A good and strong foundation on a house will keep it up in a storm/hurricane, so a strong and good foundation for our children will keep them stable through the college yrs. Don't you think! As a parent I would like to have my opinion heard and be the voice for other parents.

Candidate: Kellinda C. Reed

DBN: 29Q134

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was a member of the Community Education Council for district 18 in the year 2005. It was a very eye-opening experience. It really gave me insight into the needs of public schools and helped me see the importance of being involved in my children's education. Additionally I have worked as an independent consultant (a tutor) for Champion Learning Centers during the past year. I tutored children from K-12 who attended New York City public schools. Being a tutor helped me to see that the children attending NYC public schools truly need academic support; especially with the new common core standards being put into place. Lastly, as an adult educator for a workforce development program I know and see everyday how important it is to prepare the children for the future.

Personal Statement

As a mother of a child in high school and another child soon to be in middle school I know the importance of being involved in your child's education. As a parent I have seen and experienced many challenges with the public school system on many levels, but I have also seen and experienced positive

aspects of the public school system. As an adult educator working in workforce development, when I think of the New York City Public School System, I think of the children who will soon be the adults in the working world. They will be the doctors, the nurses, the lawyers, the police officers, and the politicians who will run this city. Then, I ask the question are we preparing them to be the high functioning critical thinking adults needed for workforce in the future? Will they be prepared to run the city ? As an optimist I say YES! I say yes because we the adults today have no other choice but to do all that we can to prepare them. We must provide the proper learning environment, leadership, and support NOW so that they can achieve later; because, the children who attend the New York City Public Schools now are our future.

Candidate: Natalie Campbell

DBN: 29Q138

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was the Treasurer for the PTA at my children's school for one year. I had to give it up because I had classes at nights on the same days as PTA. I also tutor students at York College and Queens College in Mathematics and Business.

Personal Statement

I am a mother of two boys currently in the fifth and second grades. I take interest in my children's schooling and attend as many PTA meetings and parents teacher conferences as possible. I have a great concern for the students at my children's school as well as students in general. No child should be left behind because they cannot understand the curriculum or aspects thereof. There should be sufficient investment in order that extra time is spent to guide children through the school year. I understand that teachers have a lot to do during the school day, therefore, I suggest a free after-school program in every public school to work with children that are having difficulties. I am not a trained classroom teacher, however being a tutor in college I see the need for students to have a good foundation (especially in Math) in elementary education in order to move on to high school studies and also to college. In whatever way I can influence and make a difference in our school system, I am willing and able to. Your consideration for me to be placed in this position is greatly appreciated.

Candidate: Nnenna Nwamaghinna

DBN: 29Q195; 29Q283

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am involved in the PTA in my children's elementary school, middle and high school.

Personal Statement

I would like to make a difference in how school activities are planned and run, especially ones that are geared towards educating and enlightening parents about how they can be a part of their children's educational experience. As a mother of seven children, I have a very unique insight to how parents can work closely with the NYC public school system. I have children in elementary school, junior high, high school and even college. My input will be one that is eclectic and I'll be able to identify with the problems and frustrations of parents, if any.

Candidate: Feline Lazarus**DBN:** 29Q038; 29Q192**IEP/ELL:** N/A**Applicant Background****Personal Statement**

My two boys attended private school for 4 years, from the time they were able to go to school until I was financially unable to keep them in private school. However, once we enrolled our children in public school, the experience has not been as bad as we anticipated. We realized parent involvement makes a big difference in the children's experience at school, that is one very important lesson that I would like all parents to learn. I was not going to allow the public school system to raise my children or teach them alone.

Candidate: Sonmatie Bassoo**DBN:** 29Q135**IEP/ELL:** N/A**Applicant Background****Personal Statement**

I am a very loving and caring person and would very much like to be on board. If given a chance, I will do the best to my ability.

Candidate: Roger Kevin Springer**DBN:** 29Q270**IEP/ELL:** N/A

Applicant Background

I recently moved into district 29 approximately 5 years and I part of my local block assoication. I am also an ordained Deacon serving at a chuch in the East Flatbush section for over 20 years were I have worked with young people teaching them how to sing and to utilize computer peripherals.

Personal Statement

I am interested in serving on Citywide Council in Community School District 29 because I believe education is a pivotal part of our tomorrow. I work as a Senior Systems Engineer for a major health insurance firm and hold a Master's degree in Information Systems Management and though my degree is not in education and I desirous to build upon the foundation that my teachers laid for me in order to have the career that I am currently in. I have a passion to see young people achieve their goals in life through hard work and dedication. My wife is currently pursuing her dreams of becoming a teacher and as inspired our children to reach for their dreams. Her drive has further inspired me in wanting the same not only for my children but for the children in my community. I believe that great success comes from investing in helping someone else succeed. In doing so, everyone succeeds.

Candidate: Sandy Chayse Jourdain

DBN: 29Q036

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I do not possess any community or civic related experience within student population.

Personal Statement

I Currently work for the United Nations as a Security Engineer. I am the only, African American and the only Female engineer on my team. I listen to my colleagues that are from Russia, China, India and Arab States, disprage our educational system and witness the struggle that kids are experiencing every day in this community. I want to do help plant the roots of change in our educational system, from a "non-educator" perspective.

Candidate: Lattoy Flavian McDowell

DBN: 29Q270

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Geddes Rexford Scott

DBN: 29Q037

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am an active participant in the Rosedale Jets Football organization. As a team Dad I support the Coaches in teaching our young men in the community to work together to accomplish any task they chose to put their minds to.

Personal Statement

My participation would be beneficial to not only my son's school but also to all the children in the community. This opportunity would put a face and voice to those like me who are concerned and willing to put forth a concerted effort in improving the assets available and encouraging the system to work for our youth and a benefit to our community.

Candidate: Shameika Niasia Williams

DBN: 29Q037

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was a member of AmeriCorps and participated in the Jump Start education program. I am a parent of a first grader with an IEP and I have been advocating for him since he was in an EI program.

Personal Statement

My name is Shameika Williams and I am a proud parent of a first grader student with an IEP. I attended CUNY York College and I have a BA in psychology with a minor in African American Studies. I am a strong believer that education is the only way to ensure advancement. I believe that all students are entitled to a quality education regardless of social economic background. I believe that teachers and the school administration need to be held accountable for students failing and parents should always be considered partners. I hope to bridge the gap between the schools and parents and advocate for students to receive the best education possible.

Candidate: Abel O. Alagbe

DBN: 29Q268

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

5 years as a member of D75 Community Education Council Was a Member of Parent's School Leadership Teams for more than 4 years (In the past) Member of various Community Outreaches and other educational initiatives

Personal Statement

I as a parent of 4 children, with 3 of them in the public elementary school and the 4th in the pre-school, have been involved in various parental educational program for the past 7 to 8 years. Also involved in various school leadership teams, as well as in D75 Educational council. I will also be bringing to the Council my Knowledge, Skills and abilities in D75 educational council & other area of Community outreaches, among others to this Council for the benefit of our day to day activities for the betterment of District Students in particular and other Students in NYC. I hold BS and MS degrees in Fd Science & Technology and MS in Management (Finance & Accounting). During the last Twenty years have worked in various multinational organizations private. Member and Special Committes Member for AFDO (Association of Food & Drugs Officials) and others.

Candidate: Wyonnie Nekesha Flaherty

DBN: 29Q131

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Member of Mocha Moms (Queens Chapter). I am advisory board member of JCAL (Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning). I also have 5 years experience in afterschool programs working with YAI (Young Adult Institute).

Personal Statement

My name is Wyonnie Flaherty and I am applying to serve on the Community Education Council because I am passionate about public school education and believe parents should do everything they can to be involved in their child's education. I believe I can help improve communication between school administrators and parents by helping administrators understand parents need more transparency in their schools. I also have ideas for schools on more creative ways to promote parent engagement. Thank you for your time and I look forward to serving on the Community Education Council.