

## Community Education Council – District 4

### Candidates

**Candidate: Nicole Yvonne McClammy**

**DBN:** 04M050; 04M146

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

#### **Applicant Background**

I am currently the Parent Association President of P.S.146m and 1st Vice President of the District 4 President's Council I also serviced on the Policy Council Board that oversees all of the Children's Aid Society programs in New York City. For a total of 4 yrs. once as a parent member, once a President, once as Vice President, and once as a Community Representative. I've had experience surrounding interaction with special education students, and english language learner, coming from a school that majority of the population was of Mexican American decent. i have served in affecting cirriculum changes, and rewriting school program policies.

#### **Personal Statement**

My passion is to make sure that all of our children are afforded every chance and opportunity to excel educationally, emotionally, and physically. So that they thrive in school and go on to be the next generation of job makers, Presidents, Doctor's, Nurses, Lawyers, Entrepreneurs. I believe that school is the foundation of our children's lives, and their growth, and improperly set it is a recipe for disaster. I have gone to Albany before to fight against the budget cutting they are doing in schools. And I would do it again. If you know nothing else about me know that i will defend and fight for all our children like i do for my own! They might not be mine by birth but they are mine by what binds all of us which is wanting the Best and More for All Our Children!

**Candidate: Marisela Ramos**

**DBN:** 04M155

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

#### **Application Background**

I have participated in PA/PTA's, SLT, Presidents' Council and Learning Leaders. I have knowledge on Special Education programs.

### **Personal Statement**

If I am elected to one of the CEC4 seats I would like to take the opportunity to represent the families in our community. I would also like to assure all parents are receiving all information accurately and factual District wide.

**Candidate: Lydia Soto**

**DBN:** 04M377

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

### **Applicant Background**

Served on PA/PTA & SLT. I am a Learning Leader and I have Special Education Knowledge.

### **Personal Statement**

I have knowledge on SLT's, PA/PTA, I have been a Learning Leader for years and I have been advocating for families at my children's schools for years. I would like an opportunity to continue to advocate for families district wide.

**Candidate: Kesha M. Taylor**

**DBN:** 04M375

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

### **Applicant Background**

i am the parent of a child in special education class, i am currently a member of the parent association, i am member of the school leadership team, former member of President's council and also a former member of Community education council for district 4. I also have sat in on meetings for the District leadership team.

### **Personal Statement**

My name is Kesha Taylor and i am the proud parent to 4 children that are current students in District 4. I am also a Foster Mother too a child that is in District 75. I have always pride myself to work well with other. My children are the loves of my life. I have had a lot of wonderful memories as a child also living and working in the same community. I was blessed when it was time to put my children in school. Because i wanted them to have the same great memories of school like i did. I have seen a lot of changes in our school community. Some of them i agreed with and some i have not. In my life i have always put children first. As i walk with my children to school we talk about all the wonderful things they are learning. Too see there happy faces and to see the thirst for learning so many new things. And to know that i am that parent who came from this community and have made a wonderful life for me and

my children. To know that i started my thirst for learning right in district 4. This is why i want to become apart of community education council. To be the voice for parents who feel like they have no voice.

**Candidate: Laura Monique Lugo-Rivera**

**DBN:** 04M108

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

Active member of Parent Association, Title1 as well as the Presidents Council.

**Personal Statement**

Not only do I want to make a difference I NEED to make one. I never want my children to walk the same path I have but to walk a different one and go further then I have. In order to do so I must engage in organizations that stand for a change. Be a positive yet effective voice for my community. Being a member of the east Harlem community I haven't seen positive change and I feel like now is the time.

**Candidate: Margarita Martinez**

**DBN:** 04M112; 04M206

**IEP/ELL:** IEP; ELL

**Applicant Background**

Volunteer PTA President at PS112 SLT member Former DLT member Former President of the Presidents' Council Currently CEC4 1st Vice President I am knowledgable in Special Education and English Language Learners

**Personal Statement**

My name is Margarita Martinez. I am a part of the District 4 school community. I have 2 children in District 4. I would like to continue as a CEC4 member because as you may know the assistance and services that our families need cannot be provided in a limited time period but it is on going. I would like the opportunity to continue serving the children and families in District 4. The DOE rules and regulations are constantly changing, as parents we need to understand our rights and responsibilities and our childrens' rights and responsibilities. Such as involvement in our childrens education and our own personal growth as advocates for our children. I am dedicated to advocating for this community in many different aspects such as Domestic Violence and Immigration matters to name a few.

**Candidate: Gloria E. Jimenez**

**DBN:** 04M377

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

My background began as a parent volunteer. I was a PTA President for a few years. I have experience with IEP's and Special Education Services.

**Personal Statement**

I have a personal concern for this district. Parents need to be informed of their rights and the proper way of advocating for their children. In my experience knowing my rights and my children's rights has assisted me in getting my children the services they needed and I have been able to assist other parents in advocating for their children.

**Candidate: Elizabeth Sanjurjo**

**DBN:** 04M171

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I directed an afterschool program. I had 150 students and 12 staff members under my leadership. I also serve on the board for MLS.

**Personal Statement**

As an experienced and strong leader, in a leadership position I believe my community can benefit from those skills to improve the level of Educational services provided to the students and parents of District 4.

**Candidate: Kimberly Mance**

**DBN:** 04M171

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I attended Clark Atlanta University for Early Childhood Education and volunteered with the local public school system in Atlanta, GA. Before having children of my own, I worked as a summer camp coordinator for Grosvenor Neighborhood Y. In 2011 I started a small program for mothers in the

community called Colorful Moms. This program promotes mother and child bonding while establishing mental and physical health, and awareness.

### **Personal Statement**

Education and experience will not only prepare a child for life and career but also for humility and service.

**Candidate: Raquel Lopez**

**DBN:** 04M146

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

### **Applicant Background**

well i was a secretary for two years in pta in mary d.carter elementary school p.s.151,i was part of the leadership for two years too,i was a volunteer in the same school parents ,student anybody that need my help.pta president for kids daycare center in queens too.well iam bilingual i speak english and spanish . i am very involved person ,i love to work people .

### **Personal Statement**

my name is raquel lopez iam 39 years old single mom with twelve kids ,i was born and raised in puertorico ,i came to this country on august 16 1986.my interest on this position is to help other parents to comunicate with the board education, i have 7 kids that they go to school ,two in high school ,two in jhs and three in elementary school .in my kids school i was a secretary fror the school pta for two years and i was in the leadership for two too.f i know what its to not to know everything about board education but i learn thru the years with my kids .i have a son he is in special education and its been a lot of programs cut off ,i want be involved in position like this .where i could help other schools not only my kids .i want be avaible to help make the right decision,to fight for our schools ,for our kids future .

**Candidate: Elisa Istueta**

**DBN:** 04M037; 04M171

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

### **Application Background**

I have participated as a parent representative on school committees to interview and select new Parent Coordinator and new Principal for River East Elementary School. My oldest son who is now in 7th grade, attended River East for his elementary school grades. My two younger children are currently at River East. I have a child with a learning disability, and have experienced the process of having him evaluated to have an IEP. Now that the curriculum has changed to be more aligned to new education standards, I have seen my other child who is in 3rd grade have some difficulty adjusting to the rigor.

### **Personal Statement**

I am applying to serve on an Education Council because I believe I can be an effective and thoughtful advocate and leader. As the parent of three children, I have had generally positive experiences with school leaders and instructional staff. I have marveled and shared my son's joy when despite his learning disability; he has been given opportunities to excel in dance and music and has performed for the school during town hall meetings. Those positive experiences are a testament of a school community that comes together to support its students and give them opportunities for success despite challenges. But there is a lot of work to be done. As education standards change and the academic work becomes more challenging and rigorous, children, parents, teachers and administrators all have to work together to achieve success. Instructional staff needs support to adjust to changes and be in better positions to help children succeed. Parents need support as they struggle to help their children at home and make necessary adjustments for their children to be successful. Schools have to provide opportunities for children to achieve while maintaining a rigorous academic environment. I hope to be part of this important dialogue and process.

**Candidate: Debbie Turner**

**DBN:** 04M108

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

### **Application Background**

I am a Learning Leader in the District. I have tutored children. I was the Title 1 rep. for two years organizing activities for school and parents. I have also volunteered at the Salvation Army for 3 years.

### **Personal Statement**

I Debbie have serviced Special Education children for 14 years. I'm currently not working. I feel my experience in the field and my love for working with children as a learning leader will continue to benefit the children of my community.

**Candidate: Clara Alvarez**

**DBN:** 04M102

**IEP/ELL:** IEP; ELL

### **Application Background**

Parent Volunteer Special Education & ELL experience

### **Personal Statement**

I've been volunteering in a District 4 school for a few years now and I am interested in learning more about the DOE.

**Candidate: Zurn A. Porter**

**DBN: 04M964**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

### **Applicant Background**

#### **Personal Statement**

After 20 years of working for organizations that support education and schools, it would be my privilege to help support the school district, parents, teachers, and students by bringing my knowledge, experience and professional skills to the CEC in any way I can. I believe that most things are possible if we create a culture of teamwork and work together to achieve a common goal. Let's work together to provide educational environments where: creativity and exploration meet academic rigor; children can be a part of a community of innovative thinkers that also learn to respect and look out for each other; teachers integrate global learning experiences that can be adapted to varied learning styles and have the freedom to experiment with different ideas and technologies; and parents involved in the education of their children are always welcome.

**Candidate: Valentina Maria Morales**

**DBN: 04M112**

**IEP/ELL: IEP**

### **Applicant Background**

Recently I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of a non-profit called Literacy for Incarcerated Teens which supports the establishment and maintenance of proper libraries in juvenile detention facilities, group homes and other secure placements in New York State. As an attorney, i have advocated on behalf of children as well as parents and have done significant work in defense of prisoners. Before attending law school, I taught ethics and justice at Notre Dame School in Manhattan.

#### **Personal Statement**

I am interested in joining the dialogue on education in our city. Far too often it appears that the policy governing our schools is crafted through a process that largely excludes informed parents and on the ground educators. As a single mother to two children, a life-long New Yorker and the daughter of an immigrant, I bring a voice that is familiar with many of the needs and the struggles New York City families today. I am dissatisfied with the unequal distribution of resources and the lack of innovation that has sold our best chances at education to the highest bidder with seats only acquired through the luck of a lottery. I am committed to listening and learning from representatives of the Department of Education while fiercely advocating for our children, especially those with special needs.

**Candidate: Jasmine Velazquez**

**DBN: 04M964**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

### **Applicant Background**

I am a Special Education teacher and have been teaching for 5 years. I have taught in self-contained classrooms, inclusion classrooms, as well as provided small group instruction. I have taught children with a variety of disabilities from Learning Disabled to Emotionally Disturbed. I am very active in my school community and have volunteered at my daughter's school as well. I am on the board of Kidz Stop, a non-profit organization that provides a therapeutic art based curriculum for children with Autism. I am politically engaged and am working towards a career in educational policy to ensure that all children receive a quality education.

### **Personal Statement**

My name is Jasmine Velazquez and my daughter is a third grader at Central Park East II. I am a proud native New Yorker and a product of District 4 schools. As a graduate of Manhattan East, I know the benefits of a District 4 education first hand. I am a Special Education Teacher and I work with students who are oftentimes cast out. My students have a range of disabilities that prevent them from accessing the curriculum at the same rate as their peers. I understand that education is not a one size fits all model because every child learns differently. As education continues to evolve, the prevailing thought has become that of special education individualized learning. What was once demeaned as different is now being recognized as necessary. I would like to become a member of the CEC 4 because I would like to ensure that our common goals are realized. My expertise in education, my love for our community, and my ability to work well with others makes me a great candidate for the position. We live in the greatest city in this country. It's about time our schools reflect that.