

## Community Education Council – District 6

### Candidates

**Candidate: Angela Garces**

**DBN:** 06M048

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

#### **Applicant Background**

I have participated in school events to raise funds for my children's schools, PS 48 and PS 187. I also participate in the Parent Associations and School Leadership Team of PS 48, as well as serve as CEC Delegate for PS 48 for last several years. I have two children with IEPs and am well aware of the process and detailed work involved with getting children help they so richly need to help them succeed.

#### **Personal Statement**

As A CEC member, I will commit to doing the very best I can to truly help our children and parents. I understand our concerns from overcrowded classrooms, better teaching evaluations, overtesting, accountability and responsibility, and rezoning. I am not afraid to stand up, fight for our children, our district and use the great power that we as citizens have been given, via the Community Education Council. I am a parent of 3 wonderfully well-balance children, two with IEPs who are thriving and doing exceptionally well, and are happy to attend school on a daily basis. it takes hard work, dedication, understanding, knowledge, persistence as well as patience. I am willing to work to do what we need as we need much! Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Candidate: Sophia Lewis**

**DBN:** 06M128; 06M326

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Background**

#### **Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Nancy Meiyun-Chiu Bivens**

**DBN:** 06M513

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

25 years experience working with children and adults in educational settings from informal neighborhood groups and religious groups, to college and graduate student education. I have worked with homeless children in respite shelters, as well as children in psychiatric emergency rooms. I am currently a psychiatrist involved in developmental research, and I volunteer weekly with 3-4 year olds extracurricularly, as well as volunteering in my child's school at least once a week.

## **Personal Statement**

My philosophy: children are actively developing their personalities and interests, strong emotional and social skills are the foundation for all other learning, academic ideas should be presented in a clear way that allows individualized learning. My child had a wonderful K and 1st grade. Her thirst for knowledge shows how precious these early years are. What led me to become a physician and researcher? When I first saw a petri dish in 2nd grade, my desire to learn science began that very day. My clinical work gives me insight from psychiatry, and I can imagine all the different talents and challenges that each unique child has. Even children who struggle in school have a deep desire to learn and grow up, and tapping into their emotional and developmental needs allows them to flourish. I am deeply committed to supporting teachers and parents/guardians in meeting the needs of the children in their care. We must make sure financial support is provided to allow great classrooms to develop, use leadership and training to develop a culture of understanding and achievement, and add technology to make parent participation in the classroom easier and more cooperative. I vow to serve enthusiastically and with dedication on the CEC.

**Candidate: John Ernest D'Ulisse**

**DBN: 06M187**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

## **Applicant Background**

## **Personal Statement**

I am the son of the NYC public schools: I attended PS 159, IS 25, Stuyvesant High School and City College. The system was always impoverished and the going always difficult. My second grade class was merged into my little brother's first grade class because there was no money for teachers, my high school was riddled with asbestos and all of my brothers classes in his senior year of high school were cancelled because of budget cuts. Even with the problems, there was a sense that we were all in this together and that the DOE was doing its best. Today I walk into my son's school here in District 6, and I see the same buildings and handouts from my own childhood and I see procedures set up in the 1960s. Today it is clear this DOE is unconcerned with our children's best interests, and is only interested in destabilizing schools by forcing money to be spent on harebrained schemes rather than educating them. I oppose this and if you agree with me, then I would be honored to represent you on the CEC.

**Candidate: Isabella Christina Elton**

**DBN:** 06M187

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I am presently the CPR for my son's class. I also volunteer twice a week in the classroom. I assist with the weekly science lesson as well. I have teaching experience as well. Upon graduating college, I taught a multi-aged special class in Arizona. I created lesson plans as well as participated in the creation and implementation of IEPs.

**Personal Statement**

I have a son who is currently attending a public school in District 6. He is darling but challenging boy because he is different than his peers. He has Asperger's Syndrome as well as ADHD. Upon relocating to NYC over the summer of 2012, I had serious doubts and trepidation when it came time to register him in an NYC public school. MY fears were quickly put to rest when I met and watched his teacher interact with him and his new set of classmates. I am interested in participating in this process because I want to make sure other parents out there do not come into a similar situation with the same concerns and fears that I did. I want to build the bond between community and educators so that all parties feel a sense of satisfaction when it comes to the educational and social welfare of their children.

**Candidate: Yolanda Baldwin**

**DBN:** 06M004; 06M346

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I have served on the PA of my children's previous schools. I served as treasurer and Vice President.

**Personal Statement**

I have been involved in the NY School system for over ten years. I am very active and hands on when it come to my children's education. I am a strong advocate for equal opportunity for children of under served communities.

**Candidate: Michael Ortiz**

**DBN:** 06M189

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

parent leader,PTA member.

**Personal Statement**

i am really interested in taken part in the council,cause,i would like to know how the council operates.

**Candidate: Richard Glen Tatum**

**DBN:** 06M278

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background****Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Tatiana Mahoney**

**DBN:** 06M187

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I am currently serving as the chair of the English Language Learners committee at the CEC6. I love advocating for parents who are new to our school system. As the chair, I have the privilege to hold conferences for ELL parents in partnership with the superintendent - first with Ms. Martha Madera and now with Ms. Elsa Nunez. I love engaging parents and giving them the tools they need to be active in their children's education. I also love to advocate for more resources for English Language Learners in the form of educating parents of their rights and asking for better quality of language programs.

**Personal Statement**

I consider myself as an English Language Learner as I immigrated when I was 19 and didn't know a word of English. I relate to the struggles students and parents face as they come to this country willing to excel and yet "lost in translation." My desire is to use my knowledge and resources to help all those who are new to the educational system and if possible point them in the right direction to achieve their dreams.

**Candidate: Erika Santil**

**DBN:** 06M028

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I am fluent in Spanish and English. I am involved in many parent meetings. My oldest child's friends love how I am and deal with them. To them I am like a second mother.

**Personal Statement**

I would love to make a change in schools. Many schools need a strong voice to help lead to a place where parents would be proud to send their child. I have always been involved with other parents about making a difference in our children's school and hopefully I can help make this happen. My children mean the world to me and I want them to go to school to learn, make friends and remember a great experience as they get older. Every child experience of school should be a safe one, not one of feeling bullied and scared. I hope to make some type of change and help other parents do what we all have to do for our children.

**Candidate: Sunita Woodcheke**

**DBN:** 06M368

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

SLT MEMBER 2 YEARS, PARENT VOLUNTEER WITH LEARNING LEADERS FOR 4 YEARS

**Personal Statement**

ITS IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION. THE CHILD, THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE BENEFITS FROM A WELL-EDUCATED, WELL-ADJUSTED CHILD WHO IS RAISED UP TO BECOME A RESPONSIBLE ADULT. BECAUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE A HUGE PART OF EVERYONE'S LIVES, IT IS CRUCIAL TO GIVE BACK TO THE SCHOOLS THAT EDUCATED US AS KIDS, TO HELP OVERSEE THE EDUCATION OF THE FUTURE GENERATION OF YOUNGSTERS

**Candidate: Mayra E. Compres Rosado**

**DBN:** 06M192; 06M324

**IEP/ELL:** ELL

**Applicant Background**

Soy la Presidenta de la Asociacion de Padres de la escuela 192M y ocupo una silla en el CEC6.

I am the President of the Parent's Association at M192 and I hold a position within CEC6.

### **Personal Statement**

Como madre voluntaria quiero seguir colaborando con los padres y la educacion de nuestros ninos.

As a parent volunteer I would like to continue working with parents and towards our children's education.

**Candidate: Luz Celeste Quezada**

**DBN:** 06M028

**IEP/ELL:** N/a

### **Applicant Background**

1) VOLUNTEER AT A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION IN DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS. 2)FOUNDER /TEACHER, ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM IN ADEUSA, INC. 3) FOUNDER OF MISSION AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM IN ADEUSA, INC. 4)TRASLATOR FOR THE RIVERSIDE DRIVE/157-08 TENANTS ASOCIATION.

### **Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Miriam Aristy-Farer**

**DBN:** 06M314

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I served on CB9. was a on CEC6 for 1 month resigned to become PTA president at PS 153( I served on SLT for 3 years, PTA executive board 3 years). My son has learning disabilities so I had to become very knowledgeable on those practices. Having been a child who learned English as school (my parents were Dominican Immigrants) I also very much understand firsthand the challenges those families face. I also sat on a committtee with Micheal Rebell for 3 years helping to redefine what is a sound basic education. I do volunteer parent speaking apund the district in spanish and English.

### **Personal Statement**

Since my oldest entered public school in prek-k, I have been involved. It was evident that bilingual parents like myself should be helping others to understand the complexity of the DOE. For 5 years I have attended meetings, forums, conferences, workshops at times protest, rallies even the supreme court all to better inform myself and the parents I represented on public education & its responsibility to us, the parents. Having sat briefly on the CEC I understand the responsibilities and am willing and able to represent and outreach to my community and district. Professionally I come from a creative, design and marketing background working in big teams with many deadlines and challenges, this has always been an asset in my role as a parent leader and something I bring to the CEC as well.

**Candidate: Shenell D. Evans**

**DBN:** 06M513

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I am a firm believer in the need for a strong connection between families, schools, and communities, and have been involved with many school and community-based activities. Prior to becoming a parent, I worked with students and families from diverse economic and social backgrounds. I've participated in a school-based mentorship program for underserved middle school students. When my daughter was in kindergarten, I was involved with the Parent Teacher Association, served on the Grant Research committee, and assisted with implementation of various school and community-wide events (e.g., book fair, harvest carnival). Currently, I volunteer weekly at a New York Presbyterian Hospital clinic for children living with chronic medical conditions. At Castle Bridge School, I serve as a classroom parent, designee for our PTA President's Council, member of the Grant Research committee, and chair of the Communications committee.

### **Personal Statement**

A proud parent of a 1st grader at Castle Bridge, I've been an avid supporter of the public education system for the past 10 years. I want to be part of the D6 CEC in order to represent the district's diverse group of parents and ensure their concerns are heard and represented in decision-making. Diversity is very important to me. This includes ethnicity, culture, and language, and other factors that influence our perspectives and actions, such as economic status, family structure, religion/spirituality, sexual orientation, and physical, cognitive, and emotional ability. I didn't want my child in a segregated environment, so I chose an inclusive, dual language school. I'm able to actively participate in my child's school activities, and believe parents should have access to their children's schools. I'm for the integration of public schools for all children, not just middle class families. As a CEC member, I will diligently support the diverse needs of D6 families. I will use my organizational, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills to facilitate parent involvement, assist SLTs, review educational programs, and support committees that uphold educational standards for all children, especially those with special education needs.

**Candidate: Victoria (Tory) Frye**

**DBN:** 06M187; 06M314

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I have been an active member of the District 6 (D6) public education community since 2007. I have two children in D6 public schools. From 2009 to 2012, I served on the School Leadership Team, acting as the Co-Chair, in my oldest child's school; I was the Fundraising Co-Chair of the PTA in 2009-10. On the SLT, I worked to ensure that the SLT works collaboratively to determine the pedagogical vision of the school. I

was also primarily responsible for data analysis for our internal school survey and monitoring city-wide policies. In 2011, I was elected to the District 6 Community Education Council. In my first year I served as the Treasurer; in my second year, I served as Chair of the Data Committee and Co-Chair of the Public Education Policy Committee. The Public Education Policy Committee has had several meetings throughout the district to listen to public school parents biggest concerns related to their children's education and public school experience. My focus has been on general education students. Through both my CEC and SLT service, coupled with intensive immersion in public education issues, I have gained a sound understanding of the policies and practices that affect teaching and learning in our District 6 schools.

### **Personal Statement**

I seek re-election to the District 6 CEC because D6 parents and students need a strong voice to defend their right to high quality, well-rounded and -resourced public education. I defended PS 132 the Juan Pablo Duarte School from closure and co-location, because I believe that schools closings and co-locations hurt students and divide communities. I organized our D6 community to fight against budget cuts that increase class sizes, as many of our D6 students are English Language Learners (ELLs). Our D6 families work hard to help their children achieve and become engaged citizens. Yet, our D6 public schools face budget cuts and receive few supports from the DOE. We need CEC members who advocate for adequate resources and quality supports. As a new mayor is imminent, we must unite in a collective stance as parents. We need a greater voice in city-wide education policies; more resources and better formulas for supporting schools; intense focus on ELL students; less high stakes standardized testing; more resources for a well-rounded education; and oversight of special education reforms. Finally, as public school parents, we need aggressive, smart and vocal leadership to ensure that the needs of our district are not ignored.

**Candidate: Sharonda Rivers**

**DBN:** 06M005

**IEP/ELL:** N/a

### **Applicant Background**

#### **Personal Statement**

I am a mother with children in district 6 and the forgotten district 79. I see a dramatic change in the system I would like to give my input in enhancing our childrens educational experience. If given the chance to be on the counsel I will do my absolute best to be a voice for our children and parents within our district.

**Candidate: Magaly Velez**

**DBN:** 06M278

**IEP/ELL:** N/A



## **Applicant Background**

Currently serving on CEC6 and sub-committee on Special Education and also VP of MS293. Serving on the School leadership team for 8+ years at various children's schools.

## **Personal Statement**

I'm a parent of 3 students that have attended and still currently attend district 6 schools. Have served on CEC6 for 4 years and heavily involved in all my children's schools at various levels. Have a passion in seeing that all students receive an equal public education. Believe I'm a fair member by which I try to listen to all parties and make decisions on what is being presented. Even though this system has failed my own child in her education, I still try to help others that need guidance in accessing services for their own. I hope to continue serving MY community

**Candidate: Anthony Francis Kelso**

**DBN:** 06M311

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

I am completing my first 2-year term as a member of the District 6 Community Education Council. During the first year, I served as the Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee. During the second year, I served as Secretary and as a member of the Public Education Policy Committee. I am also informally involved in community politics--some of the activities I engage in are attending meetings, advocating for local political candidates, participating in press conferences and rallies on behalf of the community, and so on.

## **Personal Statement**

When I ran for the CEC6 last time, I wasn't especially knowledgeable about the NYC public school system. During my first term I learned a lot and had my eyes opened to the reality of what's involved in seeking this objective--it's not just a matter of fighting for the resources we need to improve our schools, but of raising our voices to even keep our schools open. It's become clear to me that the DOE doesn't work on behalf of us as parents or our kids. The only way we can make the gains we need in public education in our district is to organize a large group of parents and allies who make so much noise that the DOE will be forced to listen to our demands and act accordingly. I have also learned that there is a danger of our district becoming divided along socioeconomic lines. To solve the injustices in our neighborhood, we have to transcend our differences and work for the good of the community as a whole. Should I serve again on the CEC6, I will strive to act in a manner that brings factions together rather than push them apart.

**Candidate: Rita Yolanda Cortez**

**DBN: 06M223**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

### **Applicant Background**

Trabaje como voluntaria en la Escuela P.S.8, ayudando a vigilar a los niños en el after school y trabaje como secretaria del PTA en un periodo y en otro periodo como Presidenta del PTA y participe en el SLT por dos periodos . En la escuela Mott Hall estoy participando en las actividades que se realizan en la escuela y participo en el SLT.

I worked as a volunteer at P.S. 8 where I helped watch over the kids in their afterschool program, as PTA Secretary for a term and then as PTA President for another and I was part of the SLT for two terms. Within Mott Hall, I am actively participate in all school activities and currently am part of the SLT.

### **Personal Statement**

Me gustaria nuevamente participar en el Consejo, porque hay muchos cambios que necesitamos hacer para mejorar el rendimiento academico de nuestros hijos y tambien en el sistema educativo y pienso que poco a poco se lo va a lograr. Yo vengo de un pais en que pude notar la diferencia que hay en la educacion de mi pais y el de este pais y esta es muy grande, por eso yo quiero contribuir a que esto vaya mejorando con el tiempo.

I would like to once again participate in the Council because there are many changes that need to be made in order to improve our children's academic performance along with the education system and step by step we will achieve it. I come from a country where you can see a huge difference between the educational systems of this country and mine so I want to contribute to its improvement over time.

**Candidate: Yuderka V. Valdez**

**DBN: 06M052**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

### **Applicant Background**

I have been involved in the public school system for over 12 years, when my children started their public school careers. I am the mother of 3 Honor students due to my involvement in my children's education. After realizing how important it is to be an involved parent, I have never looked back!

### **Personal Statement**

My name is Yuderka "Yudy" Valdez and my son will be graduating The Brooklyn Latin School this year as an Honor Student and my daughters are currently attending IS 52. I am the mother of 3 Honor students due to my involvement in my children's education. I have been involved in the public school system for over 12 years, when my children started their public school careers. After realizing how important it is to be an involved parent, I have never looked back! I started by attending PTA meetings, and speaking to my children's teachers and making sure that they were at or above their levels. Then I ran for office at PS

189, where I started as the treasurer of the PTA, eventually becoming President for 4 years. I realized over 10 years ago that parental involvement is very important for the success of our children and that is why I stay involved in my children's education in any capacity possible. I am looking forward to the time when our children all graduate from high school at a level that helps them succeed in college!

**Candidate: Kristin Borhofen**

**DBN:** 06M278

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

CEC 6 Capital Budget Hearings, 2006 and 2007 Researched and presented demographic data to counter DOE's Grier Report findings. 2009-2010 PS/MS 278 PTA Communications Committee and CEC Committee Co-Chairperson PTA Executive Board Member School Leadership Team Chairperson 1st & 2nd Grade Classroom Volunteer: School-wide Enrichment Model "Weather" Spring Fair Committee Career Day support Learning Leader Leadership roles in various school-wide community building events and fundraisers 2010-2011 PS/MS 278 PTA Communications Committee Co-Chairperson PTA Executive Board Member School Leadership Team Chairperson 2nd Grade Classroom Volunteer: SEM "Salvador" Spring Fair Committee Co-publisher PTA Newsletter Career Day support Learning Leader Leadership roles in various school-wide community building events and fundraisers 2011-2013 - Truncated due to character limit

### **Personal Statement**

My name is Kristin Borhofen. I am public school parent. My youngest is awaiting Kindergarten placement for the 2013-2014 school year. Through the years, first by attending Community Board 12 Youth and Education Committee meetings, District 6 CEC meetings, and participating in CSD 6 Capital Budget Hearings, and next by becoming a public school parent, I have both learned about and experienced the challenges facing District 6 schools, children, and families. As a public school parent I volunteer at a local level to address the concerns that directly impact my school community. Now I would like to use these experiences and all that I have learned from former and current public school parents, volunteers, advocates, and CEC board members to support our schools, children, and families on a district-wide level. I greatly appreciate this opportunity to be evaluated to join the dedicated team of volunteers on the District 6 Community Education Council.