

Citywide Council on Special Education - Candidates

Candidate: Mae Hudnell

DBN: 29Q259

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I used to be on the a special p.t.a. board making sure the school children received the things they needed. we would me every thurs. and forward a list to the pricipal to reveiw. I also stay in contact with the special education team to make sure the kids are getting what they need.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Jenny Patti

DBN: 31R035

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I am a mother of a child with special needs. I have been my child's advocate since he was 2 years old. I feel that assessing a child every two weeks is not teaching especially with a child that has a (IEP).

Candidate: Jody Harkavy

DBN: 25Q169

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have been President of the Parents' Association fot Temple Beth Sholom for the last 2 years. I was also on the Executive Board at my son's former school (P.S 130Q). My son has been in an ICT program and I help whenever possible.

Personal Statement

My name is Jody Harkavy. My son is in 4th grade and has been in an ICT class for most of his school career. Trying to get him the services he needed was difficult and fraught with frustrations. As a mother and advocate, it would mean so much if I could help make things more easily managed. There needs to be more information and help available for these parents as they navigate the system. Also, two years ago, I had a stroke. And, having to relearn myself gave me a brand new perspective. It has made me even more determined to be involved on such a panel.

Candidate: Nanine Iengo Blogstrom

DBN: 31R069

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

PTA, I have worked in the DOE as a substitute from 1999-2000, I worked as a Preschool teacher for the Children's Aid Society from 2001-2006, I worked as a Director for the Preschool/Early Childhood Center from 2006-2008, I am now an Special Education ABA Therapist/Coordinator for an organization named CHIP of NY.

Personal Statement

I feel very strongly about the state of Education in this country, this state, this city and our district. I have a unique perspective as I have taught, been a Director, started a school, have worked with children of all ages who have a special education diagnosis and now have a child in the public school system who has both an IEP and is in the Gifted and Talented class. I am extremely committed to education and feel that parents are the key to ensuring that education increases in its quality.

Candidate: Diamaris Magarin

DBN: 75Q075

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am currently a member of the Citywide District 75 Community Education Council. I have a child in a District 75 special education program. I have been an advocate for my child since he was a baby. I've helped other parents be advocates for their children as well. I have had to work hard to get my child what he needs to reach his maximum potential. It is a long journey but not an impossible one as long as everyone is willing to work together and reach an agreement as to what is in the child's best interest.

Personal Statement

I am an involved parent of a special needs child who is in a District 75 school. I have always been an advocate for my child and have helped other parents to advocate for their children. I am currently serving on the Citywide District 75 Community Education Council and am looking forward to the opportunity to serve another term. I joined the council in order to try to make a difference for the District 75 students, and in an effort to make myself available to parents who may need assistance in navigating the system to help their children obtain the best possible education. I look forward to working with the council, the parents and D75 in an effort to get all of the D75 students to reach their maximum potential.

Candidate: Alleyne Jean Hughley

DBN: 28Q690

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

School-related involvement-Learning Leader for 9 years, 2 years as Parent Advisory at Blanch Day Care Center, 7 years as Parent Teacher Association/Parent Association (4 yrs elementary, 3 yrs middle school), 1 year Treasurer of Parent Association, 2 years 1 st Vice President on District 27- District Council of Presidents, 1 year as Treasurer on District 27-District Council of Presidents, 5 years Title 1 Representative-elementary, 2 years Title 1 Treasurer-middle school, 9 years School Leadership Team (5 elementary, 3 middle school, 1 high school). Community Related-2 years as a Board of Director for a community sports program (Team Deuce Sports Inc.). I belonged to NAACP Far Rockaway Branch. I belong to Eastern Star participate in the community Christmas Committee.

Personal Statement

My name is Alleyne Hughley and I have been a volunteer and a parent advocate for over 13 years. I am empowered to affect the educational future of all students even though we are dealing with children with varying backgrounds, ethnicity, and socioeconomic. My motivation stems from seeing our students, parents and staff succeed and providing reassurance and support toward that success. I want input to the future of our children. I want to at least be able to say I was involved. My motivation is the success of the children. To see them develop, grow and achieve would make serving on the Council worthwhile. I feel I can truly make a positive impact on the future of all students, staff and parents. I know serving on the Council is the ultimate act of volunteerism.

Candidate: Ana Judson

DBN: 02M006

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was a first grade and kindergarten teacher for 4 years.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Krici L. Ramos

DBN: 11X083

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am familiar with the IEP process and District 75 services. I have tutoring experience and knowledge of the speech/language and psychological testing procedures. I am a graduate student studying Counseling for School and Guidance at New York University, class of 2014.

Personal Statement

I have diligently worked with school based support teams at PS 96 and PS 83 regarding my daughter's IEP. I have been through the process required to create an IEP, decertify an IEP, and re-instate an IEP. Aside from my 6th grader in the NYC public school system with an IEP, I have three older stepchildren with IEPs. All of my children have taught me so much and helped to shape my experiences. Two of my stepchildren attend a publicly funded private school for children with special needs. I enjoy learning and advocating for special education services. My passion is to seek out ways to help others and to work to improve the special education experience of NYC public school students with IEPs. Currently, I am a full time graduate student working towards a Master's degree in School Counseling at New York University.

Candidate: Shamika Nicole Thompson

DBN: 05M154

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am currently a member of the School Leadership Team at The Harriet Tubman Learning Center. I Discuss the needs and concerns with parents, and effectively ensure parent's rights are implemented. I assist Teachers on outdoor events, and on campus fundraisers. I am very active on the Parent Association on the local and district levels. I am also involved in community outreach. I am certified in peer mediation and crisis intervention.

Personal Statement

I am passionate about the rights of parents and children. I believe that parental engagement is not only helpful to the school but the parent community also. I look forward to working with parents, exchange idea's, discuss concerns and find posiive soulutions. My goal is to do all that I can to show parents how to help our children to reach academic excellence. I understand collaboration; therefore working effectively as a team will produce well rounded, hardworking successful children.

Candidate: Burnitta Gadson

DBN: 03M180

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have worked with both students and teachers in both special and general education. I have attended all parent/teacher conferences and am actively involved in the development of all my children academically, psychologically and socially. I have tutored children while visiting my children's classroom teachers and assisted in keeping the classes well structured during field trips which involve chaperoning.

Personal Statement

I am interested in the welfare of all children in the public school system. I am seeking a position in one of the three open seats because I believe the educational policies of the NYC Public Schools should benefit all children regardless of one's learning styles or differences. I hope to make a difference in the lives of our young people by working with the Board of Education on a united front in improving the education system and policies. Thus providing effective educational and social progress for all NYC Public school children.

Candidate: Wanda Anne Rodriguez

DBN: 12X691

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am the parent of two special needs students. One of my sons attends our local public school, in the same school building which I attended many years ago. My elder son attends a special school on Long Island. I am involed with both of my sons' parent associations. I am currently the president of the Bronx Little School Parent Association and the Treasurer of the President Council for District 12.

Personal Statement

I am the parent of two special needs boys, aged 13 and 7. My younger son attends our local public school in the same building that I attended, many years ago. My elder son attends a special school on

Long Island. During the recent bus strike, I was repeatedly misinformed by the Office of Pupil Transportation before I received satisfaction. Some of our special education students are falling through the cracks of our current system. I would like to be a voice for our most vulnerable children to make sure that they get everything to which they are entitled. Please select me to be your voice for the benefit of all of our children.

Candidate: Teri Ghee

DBN: 05M318

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I work as a School Safety Agent for the last 11 years. I am a mother of six children. I do volunteer work with different groups, such as MS walks, Chrons & Colitis.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Gina Marie Panico-Devito

DBN: 26Q041

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I hold a master's degree in TESOL and have been a teacher since 1999. I currently teach ESL to adults in Manhattan.

Personal Statement

I have a daughter in kindergarten at PS 41. She has an IEP and receives speech services three times a week, resource room four times a week, and goes to extended day on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. I feel I am already an advocate for my child, and will gain knowledge and experience if chosen. I also have a 4 year old son who will be evaluated soon for speech as well.

Candidate: Wanda Scott

DBN: 75K036

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background**Personal Statement****Candidate: Melanie Alana Burnette****DBN:** 29Q251**IEP/ELL:** IEP**Applicant Background**

I have just been very involved with my son's education regarding his IEP and Special Education placement.

Personal Statement

I have been a parent of a bright, talented and witty Special Education student, who is my son Markus Burnette. My journey through the "special education" world was very tasking and daunting. I was uneducated about the special education process and my son faltered due to my miseducation. Now, my son is thriving at a school that truly cares for him and educates parents about the special education process. As a newly educated parent, I would like to be more involved and make a difference.

Candidate: Cynthia H. Perthuis**DBN:** 02M565**IEP/ELL:** IEP**Applicant Background****Personal Statement****Candidate: Cheryl Ocampo****DBN:** 75Q993**IEP/ELL:** IEP**Applicant Background**

I am currently employed part time for a nonprofit organization that services families with disabilities in Brooklyn and Queens. I conduct workshop and trainings on Special Education as well as provide

community referrals for families. I also voluntarily run a nonprofit organization that services families by autism. I am a Graduate Student majoring in Psychology: Applied Behavior Analysis working towards certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with a focus on working with families affected by autism.

Personal Statement

Having one of your own children diagnosed with a disability changes your whole life. As the mother of three children with my youngest child affected by a disability, I am very familiar with such a change. I have committed my life to helping other families become the best advocate they can be through education and networking.

Candidate: Charlene Davis

DBN: 22K535

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

My Name is Charlene Davis I am the parent of a special needs child. I have never served on any committees or boards, however I know that I would be a very good candidate for one. I have been dealing with the Board of Education for many years. I have a four children. All of them have attended public school. Three of them have gone on to college. My last child is a special needs child and because of this it has giving me a lot of experience with dealing with the Board of Education, from fair hearing , appeal , Individualized Education Program and red tape. I feel that most people would like to have a person on a committee that knows first hand how hard it is to deal with the Board of Education, be it general education, gifted and talented or special education and I have it all. I am disabled myself and know how hard it can be to try to fight for what you know is right when people are telling you no do to red tape and politics. One thing that I have learn in my life is that for ever politics there is an exception.

Candidate: Joyce Finger

DBN: 20K200

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

im the president of the P.T.A im on two school leadership teams im also a learning leader and im chairperson for title 1

Personal Statement

I would like the opportunity to try and make a difference in a positive way, and to give my help in any way I can. This will be my first priority.

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 strengthened my drive to ensure that every child in elementary and middle schools in District 29Q receive 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 you are able to assist with change for the better for our children in the community.

Candidate: Margarita Martinez

DBN: 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 knowledgeable 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 children's rights and responsibilities. Such as involvement in our children's 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: Gina Marie Davis

DBN: 27Q309

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Statement

I have a child with a IEP and I go to every work shop to learn more

Personal Statement

Candidate: Parnelle Bordes

DBN: 75Q256

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Nagita Rochelle Sykes

DBN: 15K442

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

2009-2012 - Girl Scouts Troop Leader (grades 4-8) 2009-2012 - Camp Darby Elementary/Middle School PTA Historian 2012-Present - Co-President, MS 442 Middle School 2012-Present-SLT, Exec Committee Designee 2012-Present- Co-President, District 15, President's Council

Personal Statement

I have been an active member of the US Army for fifteen years. I spent eight years on active duty and have been in the reserves for seven and currently assigned here in the NYC area as an IT Specialist. Upon my arrival to NYC I became an active member in my community by volunteering and eventually ended up running for Co-President at MS 442, Executive Committee in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn. A few weeks later I decided to run for President of District 15, President's Council to get a better understanding of the

education system here in Brooklyn. I come from a military family and have moved around the world my whole life and after being assigned here in Brooklyn for the past 11 months I have finally hit a point in my life and career that I needed to settle and provide a stable and nurturing environment for my daughter. My daughter only knows the feeling of moving every few years and I felt that it was time to show her what most families in the US experience of living in the same town, city and state for the majority of their lives. I have dealt with four states and the Department of Defense Schools and have experienced five different types of practices of special education in public schools and in turn have given me a diverse back ground and educated me on so many different levels. I hope that I am able to pass on my knowledge and assist as many families in the NYC area as I can. I have been on this journey for ten years and every day I learn something new and that gives me the opportunity to pass on this knowledge to as many families I come into contact with here in NYC!

Candidate: Maria Ortiz Farley

DBN: 14K414

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Certificate of Completion of Training of the Parent Member of the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) and Committee on Special Education (CSE). Regular visits and chaperon class trips with the Special Education class at my child's school.

Personal Statement

I have found a new calling in my life as I gain as much knowledge as possible in my child's special education needs throughout the NYC public school system. Having a background in legal studies for nearly 2 decades, the politics and bureaucracy are of particular interest. Specifically, the need to simplify so many of the processes parents and students must go through, only to get the most basic of needs. For this reason, I have been involved in my child's school's Parent Association as recording secretary, and regularly attend the School Leadership Team meetings. Although my child receives special education services, my desire to be more involved in the school community goes far beyond just those areas.

Candidate: Elena Romero

DBN: 15K094

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was part of the NYC Mentoring Program from 2002-2003. I have served as an Academic Advisor for The City College of New York ((CCNY/CUNY)) since 2002. I advise both Liberal Arts and Early Childhood Education (ECE) undergraduate students. I have been a college educator for almost 11 years serving as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at The City College of New York and the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT/SUNY). I am knowledgeable of the Common Core Standards on the college level. I am the parent of an elementary student with a speech/language IEP since age 3.

Personal Statement

Elena Romero is a journalist, college educator, and author. Ms. Romero made her transition into academia in 2002 after serving as Associate Editor and Contributing Editor for fashion bibles DNR (defunct) and Women's Wear Daily (WWD). She teaches a myriad of media courses as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT/SUNY) and The City College of New York Center for Worker Education (CCNY/CUNY). Ms. Romero is the author of *Free Stylin': How Hip Hop Changed the Fashion Industry* (Praeger, 2012). Her journalistic excellence and contributions to fashion journalism were recognized with an Urban Fashion Journalism Award at the Urban Fashion Awards Show at Lincoln Center in 2002. Ms. Romero is a recipient of the 2011 Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies at The City College of New York's Faculty Leadership Award. She holds a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications and an M.S. in Publishing, both from New York University. A native New Yorker of Puerto Rican ancestry, Ms. Romero resides in Brooklyn with her three daughters.

Candidate: Quetcy Perez

DBN: 10X279

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am currently the PTA President at PS/MS 279.

Personal Statement

I feel confident and have the strengths necessary to support our school community in obtaining the resources needed for our students to become future leaders. I will work very hard to support and give the opportunities necessary for all students to create and achieve their goals. I feel confident that giving Family Support Services help parents become active partners in the success and growth of every student.

Candidate: Nicole Stabile

DBN: 31R056

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

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: John Englert

DBN: 31R721

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I've been a member of the Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE) since 2005. During this time I've served as Chair and Co-Chair and advocated for all children with disabilities. I've provided hands on leadership on the CCSE and have collaborated with local Community Education Councils (CEC's) and other parent bodies such as President's Council and PTA's to create an environment in which parents want to be included in discussions about their children's education. For further information, please read my Personal Statement below.

Personal Statement

My son Joseph is an inspiration and has taught me to make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities. From helping to influence policy on the State level to advocating for parents' rights within our local Community Schools, our job as parent leaders and advocates for our children will never end. Though we have made strides, our children's special education continues to be a project in progress that requires our constant involvement. As the parent, we are not only the one constant in our children's education; but, the primary stakeholder who deserves to be seated at the head of the table. Over the past term, I've provided feedback on issues such as special education reforms, the busing strike, co-locations, mandate relief and untimely Related Services. As Chair and Co-Chair of the CCSE over the last eight (8) years, some of the best ideas have originated from parents. I am optimistic that this trend will continue and parent involvement will flourish so that our children can reach their maximum potential and achieve the successes that are to come. I look forward to the opportunity of representing District 75 on the CCSE.

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: Lannetta Chevon Jeffers

DBN: 23K298

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

cec 23, dlt, dpac, slt 298 and pta 298

Personal Statement

im running for community education council to improve parent involvement to address parents concerns about their childrens education. Im a advocate for my son who is special needs so I have a passion for issues concerning special education students and improving the system with special educational reform. Im a passionate and concerning individual outspoken, outgoing educated black woman. I want to make a difference and I want parents concerns and issues be heard thats what makes me a great candidate for the CEC 23. Our district needs to be heard we have alot of issues that still need to be resolved our schools need help our children need a better and promising education. We cant talk about we have to be about it!!!!

Candidate: Carolyn Ferguson

DBN: 28Q080

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a mother of a child enrolled in the public school general education setting with special education needs that requires a weekly in school counselling session to assess and monitor overall performance with behavior.

Personal Statement

To better understand and align myself with the importance of the role of education within our community, its effectiveness with regards to educating our students, parents and the general public at large about special needs. To speak for those of us who are afraid or unable to address the matter of special education in our school system and its acceptance.

Candidate: Shauntee Latrice Byron

DBN: 07X029

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am greatly involved in my child's school with both the administrative staff as well as the teaching staff. I offer ideas that I think are effective as well as helpful to the students, in hopes of them meeting their academic requirements.

Personal Statement

I am parent first and foremost to my children, I have one in seventh grade, and one entering Pre-K this September, I'm a public servant for the City of NY. As stated earlier, I am greatly involved with staff at my daughter's school and would like to get even more involved. I believe that it is imperative for us as parents to develop a partnership relationship with our educators in our children's school and get involved, rather than complain, get involved, you can't seek change or complain, if you're not part of the change.

Candidate: Anthony Alfred Caponera

DBN: 75Q811

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.

Candidate: Lisandra Vera

DBN: 09X204

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

i was part of the pta for about eight years in ps.32 in 1999- 2006. I was also on the leardership team

Personal Statement

Candidate: Lisa Frazier

DBN: 03M145

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Annual Block Party.

Personal Statement

Hi I'm Lisa Frazier. The reason I'm running for office is that I want to take part in our children's academic success. I have 4 children and am experienced in advocating educational growth for my children. I'd like to share my skills and experiences with others who can and will contribute to the District.

Candidate: Erona White

DBN: 05M154

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I'm on the parent borad in the high school and in the elementary school.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Lillante Remy

DBN: 31R018

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I currently hold an MBA degree however, I have a Public Affairs Bachelor's from Baruch College. I studied and have always had an interest in education particular in urban and special needs education. I'm very active in my son's school. I go and visit and speak with his teachers, office staff and Mr. Rodriguez, the

School Principal on a weekly basis. His teachers provide me with the curriculum and I reinforce the program at home. I am known by name and they know I'm always just a phone call away.

Personal Statement

I would like to serve on the CEC because I am a dedicated parent who believes in Public School Education and that our children's and school's success is a direct result of parent/community involvement. I believe strongly in the power of engaged, informed and united parents, teachers, and community members to make shared decisions about their schools and communities. It takes a village to successfully teach and raise a child. The CEC is one of the few places where I, a parent can have a voice in New York City public school education and engage other parents and Chancellor in conversations as to how best to bring quality education and necessary resources to all of our children. I have been and will continue to be an effective advocate in serving our children.

Candidate: Jessica Montaquiza

DBN: 75Q811

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

My son entered the District 75 community when he was about 4 years old. He is now 14 years old and has had a great experience with all the schools he has attended. We have had our fair share of busing issues in the past, but it has taught me a few things. I learned that I had to be the voice for my son I also learned that problems don't get fixed on there own. I had to fight hard to get our busing issues resolved and I'm happy to say that I won. It has been over 4 years since I had a problem. Since then my son has been lucky enough to have a good route with great drivers and matrons. Most parents that has a child riding the school bus knows how frustrating bus issues are, especially the first few weeks of school. I fought hard for my son and I would like to help parents with similar issues or any other issues they may have with their child. Chances are I've had the same issues.

Candidate: Shirley Middleton

DBN: 75M138

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Parent and Teachers Association, Work with varies schools under the guides United Parents Association (back in the 60's) Harlem Domestic Peace Corp organized issues confronting the community (in the mid 60's) Summer Academic Recreational Programs. Academic Summer Tutorial Programs Provide parents

with Child Care Assistance and family issues and educational issues inclusive. Foster care mother, provided homes for troubled children in the community.

Personal Statement

I lived in Harlem for seventy four years. I attended elementary and junior high school in Harlem. All of children was reared and attend various schools within the community. One of the educational issues and major concerns of our community is special education (CCSE) and district 75 (D 75 Council) curriculum for our children. The other concern what determines the age of children referred and tested for special education/ district 75 (D75 council) (Children without physical handicap).

Candidate: Valerie Tia Montoute

DBN: 75K396

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have taught at Long Island University as an Adjunct Professor for over fours and currently I work with mentally, emotionally distrubed children. I have many year working and developing development plans for children in foster homes as well as working with children with many different diagnosis and developmental issues.

Personal Statement

Teaching in different environments such as universities, offices, and community programs has given me an insight as to the needs of our educational community. Technology has changed the way that we learn and interact with one another, and because if this it is very important that our children are well educated and have a strong foundation so that they can lead us into the future and beyond. Our previous generations are struggling to understand and our current generation has no understanding of some of the basic needs that will help them succeed and become a productive citizen. The challenge of education and developing those of the younger generation very hard because a new world has formed and is not understood except by those that have mastered it and use it on a regular basis. Many times it is important to understand the challenges that they encounter which are not as well defined as they may have been for past generations. My ability to communicate with many different populations from those with the least education, economically challenged to those that are financial sound and culturally diverse. Grant me the ability to analyze, assess and implement a program that is effective.

Candidate: Sandya Persaud

DBN: 20K223; 21K217

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I've been involved in both my children PA since they started pre-k, I've held the role of Vice President in their ke entry school and I currently hold the role of president of the PA at the middle school my oldest child attends.

Personal Statement

Both of my children receives resource room as part of their IEP, I like the fact that they get these services and still be in general education classes. I've had a great support team from my eldest son junior high, however I can't say the same for my youngest son elementary school. I've never felt welcomed at that school and cannot wait to exit. I'm a very hands on parent, I've done tons of volunteer work at both schools, I also hold a certificate for the learning leader program. I love interacting with all the children. I've been part if the PA from beginning and will continue to do so.

Candidate: Angie Downing

DBN: 03M242

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I currently work for a community based daycare center.

Personal Statement

As a parent leader I will help inform parents while also being an advocate for parents. I feel our schools can do much better when it comes to our kids. As a parent leader I will fight for our kids rights and be a truthful, effective leader.

Candidate: Fatem Begam

DBN: 04M057

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I AM FATEMA BEGAM WORKING WITH K- TEACHER Ms, TUE ROOM-121 JAMES WELDON JOHNSON SINCE LAST YEAR. I AM HALPING TUDENTS PROGRESS AND EXPLAIN PARENTS WHAT THEY NEED HELP FOR THEIR PARENTS.

Personal Statement

My name is Fatema Begam. I am a kind person and I like to work children. I am always like to help children because I am a mother.

Candidate: Neyda Franco

DBN: 07X551

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

During the pass 30 plus years I have been involved in all my children education which includes my 11 grandchildren, 4 children and 3 adopted children. I have worked and have been part of the SLT, PA/PTA, Trustee, Title 1, DLT and for the pass 2 yrs. CEC member. During the years as a parent member to the IEP team I have advocated for the parent and their children. The work that I have done and will continue to do has always been for all the Children no matter if they are GE, Special Ed., ELL or District #75. It has been and always will be about our children.

Personal Statement

As a life long believer that all our children can learn and it is their legal right to have a well rounded education, I will continue that fight not matter what. As parents we are thei childrens first educator and will be their last with our last breath. It takes a village to educate our children and we the parent are the top member of that village. This has be my stand wherever I go it is about our "Children" and we must be respected as their parent and partners in their education.

Candidate: Columban Allan Alexander

DBN: 17K382

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I HAVE PARTICIPATED GOING ON TRIPS WITH THE STUDENTS AT P.S. 245. I HAVE BEEN TO CLUB GETAWAY. BEEN TO DIFFERENT MUSEUMS, TO PARKS I HAVE VOLUNTEER AT THAT SCHOOL FOR THE PASS SIX YEARS. I HAVE BEEN VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, LEARNING LEADER, MEMB3R OF S.L.T.I HAVE BEEN WITH THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION FROM DAY ONE.

Personal Statement

I WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 9/13/51 CASTRIES ST. LUCIA. WEST INDIES. I AM A PRESS OPERATOR BY TRADE. MY LAST CHILD GOES TO THE 7th. GRADE AT A.C.P.C.E..AT ERASMUS HALL WHERE I AM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION. HER NAME SYLVIANE ALEXANDER.

Candidate: Lori Podvesker

DBN: 75K077

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

As a former special education teacher who has mostly worked with students with communication disorders and a mother of a delightful 10-year-old child with cerebral palsy who mostly is non-verbal, I have routinely observed how social constructs shape the culture and attitudes around the inclusion of all students and their families differently in every school and community. I have personally experienced as a parent, teacher, and advocate, the difficulties around meaningfully integrating and appropriately educating all children in equitable ways within all communities. It is my belief that all students with disabilities are entitled to be educated alongside of their non-disabled peers, regardless of their academic, psychological, and physical abilities. And it has been my responsibility along with others, to work together so our students with disabilities are valued and treated as equitable members of any democratic society such as ours.

Personal Statement

I would like to serve another term with the Citywide Council on Special Education because I want to continue advocating for families like mine with children receiving special education services because of both the complexity of the system and it being in the middle of a citywide "reform" initiative. As the parent of a 10- year-old son with significant developmental disabilities, I've worked hard to gain the knowledge needed to best advocate for my son. I know firsthand how much time, effort, and tenacity is required of a parent in order to secure appropriate services for his or her child. Consequently, I want to use my experiences to help safeguard special education services for all students with disabilities as the city cuts budgets due to our state's and country's current financial crisis. And would enthusiastically work to achieve systemic changes such as true transparency in the ways in which educational decisions are made and that parents can fully exercise their rights. This is essential in the NYCDOE achieving the required learning outcomes of all students.

Candidate: Audrey Dunlap

DBN: 75Q177; 75Q255

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am the parent of two wonderful special needs children ages 9 and 17. On this journey I have learned so much and I will continue to learn. I am a council member of the CCSE. We are all advocates for our children. As parents we must ensure they receive an appropriate education and provide the supports for our children to progress and have happy, meaningful lives. Our children are independent learners. I mean, they have specific learning style and they learn at their own pace. But, they can learn. We must make sure they are given the opportunity to be educated appropriately.

Personal Statement

Being the parent of a child with special needs is not easy. It takes knowledge, dedication, strength and a lot of courage to advocate for our children. Sometimes it won't be easy or fair but, it will always be worth it. 1- Believe in your child, they can learn. Create an environment that will promote and support learning for them and do not accept anything less from anyone else. Secondly, hold educators accountable. Teachers must believe in our children & the importance education. Educators must know what a profound role they have and treat it as such. They must provide individualized curriculum to meet the unique needs of our children. They must raise expectations, train teachers, provide classroom supports, use researched based materials, have a defined curriculum, create SMART IEP goals, monitor progress or lack of it and most of all be held accountable every step of the way. It is a collective effort between Parents and the DOE and both parties must be sincere. Preserving, nurturing and respecting that relationship will only bring progress. It has been a privilege and honor help give a voice to our children and serve on the CCSE. We have so many children counting on us.

Candidate: Evette Cabrera

DBN: 30Q450

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I have a child with a learning disability who just entered High School in September and I am very disappointed with the "phasing out" that is being used to eliminate the extra support and accommodations that the child was getting at one point and are no longer available including modified promotion, this phase out has had a negative effect on my child upon entering High School nothing has

changed about his disability the child still struggles academically and even more now because he is being held to the same criteria as a student without a disability and this phase out is not a one size fits all as a parent of a child with a disability I am aware of what a special needs child may require and what works for a child with special needs, unless you have a child with special needs you will never understand, special education needs to do more to help these students, regents exams are not modified for students with disabilities and it's unfair, special education should have parents that have children with disabilities that know the struggles of a special needs child and that can advocate for that special needs child.

Candidate: Celia Green

DBN: 75K368; 75K369

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have worked as a P.T.A. secretary, treasurer , vice president, financial secretary and president at various times from 1994 with my eldest child entering school until the present. The populations of the schools that my children have attended and also presently attend have afforded me the opportunity to become familiar not only with children like my own who are on the spectrum of autism but those with emotional disruptions and physical disabilities. I have also trained was certified and work as a parent member.

Personal Statement

I am committed to being a part of the solution rather than just complaining about what is lacking in our New York City Public Schools. My belief is that we as parents and guardians can be agents for positive change which will benefit not only our individual children but all students attending New York City Public Schools. I have learned a lot and I am willing to learn more not just for myself but to share with other parents, guardians and staff. I will always fight for the rights of our students to receive a quality education and in doing so will always seek to empower parents with the knowledge to make the best decisions for their children.

Candidate: Yesenia Maritza Pauta

DBN: 30Q445

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

PTSA President at Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School PTSA Vice President of ways and Means at Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School St. Micheal Legal Center - Director of Program

Advancement A mother of four, with a child with an IEP plan who started services at the tender age of about 8 months in early intervention.

Personal Statement

I have over ten years of extensive experience in management, paralegal, child and community advocacy. I am a very dedicated team player who believes in the essence of protecting and developing the rights and needs of children.

Candidate: Lucy Antoine

DBN: 22K236

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am currently a member of the City Wide Council on Special Education. I am a mom of three, advocate, full-time Human Service Professional. I want to continue working with the Council members and DOE staff on helping children and families with special needs.

Personal Statement

Advocacy is my passion. I want to be a voice for the voiceless. Helping families become active members in their children's educational careers is essential. Many families have unique issues, wants and needs. Education is a birth right and helping children learn and grow is essential. Every child has the potential to do great things. Helping them bring that potential out is a blessing. My goal everyday is not to complete my "to do list" but to have a "who can I help, today, list."

Candidate: Michelle Margaret Gerig

DBN: 27Q090

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a parent member for district 27 24 30 I am a parent volunteer I am a learner leader for ps 90 i help with the pta i go to all the workshops in school all my kids trips n events

Personal Statement

i hope that i am pick for this to be a part of the team and help out on special education because both my boys have an iep

Candidate: Monique Renee Trescott

DBN: 75K368

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Saneeka Latrell Newkirk

DBN: 31R019; 31R450

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was once on a school leadership team when my children was in elementary school in brooklyn.

Personal Statement

I feel I will be an great asset being that i was on the leadership when my children was in elementary.

Candidate: Maria Gabriela Fuentes

DBN: 28Q086; 28Q182; 75Q023

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I HAVE BEEN PART OF THE PTA FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS AT MY CHILDREN'S/ COMMUNITY SCHOOLS. THIS BEING MY 4TH SCHOOL YEAR VOLUNTEERING, I AM CURRENTLY PART OF MY SONS PTA AND SLT AND MY DAUGHTER'S PRE-K PTA AS WELL. I AM ALSO A CEC D28 MEMBER SINCE JULY OF 2012. I DO A LOT OF VOLUNTEERING AT THE LOCAL SCHOOLS, I LOVE WORKING ALONG WITH THE SCHOOLS TO BRING PARENTS TOGETHER TO WORK WITH THE SCHOOL TO HELP OUR CHILDREN.

Personal Statement

I am a Parent Leader, School and Community Volunteer, Mother of 4 precious children who receive special education services to ensure their academic as well as their social/emotional success. I am always looking for ways to help them achieve their goals even though is not an easy task. Working along with teachers, Doctors, and other specialists I ensure they are kept well, even though incidents due to impulsiveness never fail. I try my best to keep positive and see it as "tomorrow anything can be made up better if today was not so great". I volunteer and become involved because I feel in my heart that we as parents can make such a difference in the schools, in our children's lives, and in our communities. I truly

believe each one of us has a lot of power to help and do so much and when we become united we can certainly move mountains. Nothing is ever perfect but if we are involved, we can make sure at least we are aware of the changes that go on, and if we have a say we can make a difference in making those changes needed. Why I volunteer? I love my children, I believe in them and I love my community, I hope and pray for a better tomorrow and I don't mind working hard as a team to ensure that our kids are able to have one.

Candidate: Marcelo Chavarria

DBN: 11X265

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have been the PTA Vice President for Bronx Lab for the Last 3 years, as well as be involve in the School Leadership Team.

Personal Statement

I am a very strong believer in better education for our children. Is about them and their future.

Candidate: La Tonja McMillan

DBN: 31R031

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

As a parent, I am President of PTA, member of the School Leadership Team , and a Very involve Parent through Literacy Inc. As a professional in community, I work closely with District 75 in Staten Island to identify students who are transitioning from High school to Adult Services whether through working in the community or through volunteering in the community. I work with individuals with intellectual disabilities and assist in making quality programs so that high school age individuals can become self sufficient.

Personal Statement

I want every student regardless of where they are educationally to have a clear understanding of common core and assist families in understanding the common core standards so that our children will be more successful expanding their knowledge base. whether in language arts, literacy, science, or math. We are the largest educational system in the country therefore, our children should be given the opportunity to have the proper tools to learn different methods in order to achieve. I also believe that we as parents will have to do more to make sure that our children are learning everything possible to be confident in their studies and their abilities to be successful whether they are in general education or

had an intellectual disability. We as parents want to encourage our children to aim for the sky because possibilities are endless as long as the aim for success is strong and everlasting.

Candidate: Tracy A. Catapano-Fox

DBN: 27Q207

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Statement

I am the chairperson of the SLT committee for PS/MS 207Q - Rockwood Park School and an active member of the Parent's Association. I am a Learning Leader at the school, assisting children in the 1st grade with reading. I am also very familiar with autism, as my youngest son was diagnosed with autism/PDD at 20 months, but is considered "recovered" and attends regular general education classes. I have worked extensively with my son on speech therapy, ABA therapy and occupational therapy, and am very familiar with the programs available to assist children on the autism spectrum.

Personal Statement

Based upon my experience and background, I believe I will be an asset to the Community Education Council. I have always been a strong advocate as an attorney, but also with children's issues as the mother of two boys in public school. My career as an attorney has always involved public service, first as an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County, and throughout my career in the court system, of which I am the Chief Clerk in Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term. My experience as the mother of a child with autism has made me a strong advocate for children's issues. My son was diagnosed with autism at 20 months and I worked tirelessly with biomedical doctors and special needs teachers to help my son overcome his diagnosis. I have been an active supporter of Autism Speaks, volunteering at various events to raise money, and running a marathon every year in my son's honor and for Autism Speaks. I would be an excellent addition to the CEC, as I have devoted myself to volunteering in my sons' public school as a Learning Leader and as the co-chair of the SLT Committee. I believe it is incredibly important to use my skills and talents to give back to the community, and I hope that I am selected to the CEC.

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: Glenda Rosado

DBN: 02M002

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have taken a couple of workshops with Henry Street Settlement and with Educational Alliance. I'm very involved in my son's school and I'm also in my school's SLT and PTA committee.

Personal Statement

I would love to be part of this council. My son gets speech and OT and is in a CTT class. I also volunteer and help in my daughter's class. She also attends P.S. 2 but she is only in Pre-K and is in a general ed class. My son has come a very long way. He is almost at grade level in reading but still struggles with math. He is a very kind and sweet boy. I would just like to be involved so I can be of some help to parents and children who have gone or are going through what my son has and will go through. I want to help and be my son's voice.

Candidate: Wadlyne Charles

DBN: 22K315

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have always been a well-informed mother; I have attended PA, SLT, and other informal forums that my son's school has held. I attended several outside meetings that were being offered through my son's Family Head Start program. Simply, to get as much informed as I could possibly get to better prepare my children's education.

Personal Statement

I take being a mother very seriously, being new to this experience of having a child in Public school is both an exciting and overwhelming journey. It makes it even more important having a Special Needs child; we love our children regardless of their disabilities. Hence why, I love to keep myself up to date with any new changes in the curriculum, testing, and any changes that will affect my child's educational future. I have sat thru many meetings since my son was in Prekindergarten, now there is a need for me to play a more active role in the education system. I always say, I am not a mother only to my three young boys, but every child is our responsibility, all children are entitled to a brighter future.

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 financial stable. If i can give my .children the support to make a difference 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 curriculum. 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: Michele Sweeting-Decaro

DBN: 03M165

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

As the mom of a sweet, smart 1st grader in District 3, a former kindergarten teacher for 10 years, and currently an educator on the college level, I see education as paramount for all children. This is particularly true for IEP and ELL students in a diverse community such as D3 and at the thriving PS 165. I believe that the success of our children in D3 strongly impacts our community. I'd like to be an advocate for D3 students and teachers by helping to endorse policies and programs that will effectively work for

our community. I recognize that students have different needs, and our schools need the support of the community to create opportunities for each child to reach their learning potential. For instance, we have the Bloomingdale School of Music, Karate for Children, and the YMCA afterschool program as well as having a great relationship with Teacher's College. Furthermore, being a part of the CEC D3 would allow me to share in empowering our school with our neighboring schools in working together, in other words, we want to build relationships where neighborhood parents feel their neighborhood schools are great options. In essence, I welcome the opportunity to serve and make a difference on the CEC District 3.

Candidate: Shakawat Ali

DBN: 11X181

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Current member of CEC 11. Founder of Autistic Angels Association, a parent advocacy group for special need children. Vice president of Bangladeshi-American Community Council, an immigrant advocacy community organization.

Personal Statement

I have been an advocate for special need students and public education since my autistic son attended CPSE. I have been CEC 11 parent member since 2011 and proudly discharged my duty. I am also a chartered member of Central Bronx Rotary Club, a member organization of Rotary International. As a president of Central Bronx Rotary Club, I chartered Central Bronx Interact Club for local students and the Interact Club has been instrumental in keeping the students busy on many community activities. I also served as a member of the community board 9.

Candidate: Kim Marie Deming

DBN: 02M111

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Benjamin Yehuda Shurin

DBN: 21K226

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Jodi Lynn Schaiman

DBN: 02M289

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Advocacy on behalf of my child with special needs; -Navigated the NYC special education system; -Fully engaged in the IEP, CSE process; -Experienced the gamut of schools, including private, special education and public school systems; -Social Worker --Auto-immune disease Alopecia Areata counselor to adolescent and teens and their families; -Secretary to Youth Ambassador of The National Tourette Syndrome Association; - Lobbyist on Capitol Hill on behalf of the TSA-USA; -Support Group facilitator for the National Alopecia Areata Foundation. -Drug Abuse Counselor. Most recently the Secretary to the Youth Ambassador of the National Tourette Syndrome Association and recently lobbied on behalf of the TSA on Capitol Hill to her House and Senate representatives including the honorables Carolyn Maloney, Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand. Ms. Schaiman is a long-time resident of Manhattan. She has a teenage son educated within the Manhattan School System.

Personal Statement

In 1993 Ms. Schaiman earned a Master of Science in Real Estate, from New York University Real Estate Institute. Upon completing her MSRE, she began her own real estate consulting group. Her consulting services were immediately retained by Merrill Lynch. In 2009, Ms. Schaiman completed her second Masters level degree and holds an MSW and CASAC-T from Fordham University School of Social Service. While completing her MSW degree, Ms. Schaiman founded If I Only Had My Hair, Inc., a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization. She facilitates the monthly support meetings for the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, at Weill Cornell Medical Center, in New York City. She has published and been quoted in several news publications in regards to the psychological implications of hair loss. Most recently she became the Secretary to the Youth Ambassador of the National Tourette Syndrome Association and recently lobbied on behalf of the TSA on Capitol Hill to her House and Senate representatives including the honorables Carolyn Maloney, Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand. Ms. Schaiman is a long-time resident of Manhattan. She has a teenage son educated within the Manhattan School System.

Candidate: Vasilla Caldeira

DBN: 15K372

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have participated in several PTA/PA associations. I am currently an active member of the SLT in school 13k020. I have also served on the PA of Arts and Letters as chair of its Hospitality Committee. I have also served on the CEC of District 18. I continue to take an active role as a parent participant in the districts where my children attend school.

Personal Statement

As an active parent of over 15 years in the public school system I have with all good intentions submitted myself to learning as much as I can about the system that serves our children. A system that chances and causes change in the lives of our most valuable. I have always considered myself to be an advocate for those parents that need guidance though such a system and to help parents become confident in fighting for the rights of their own children. My desire is to maintain the promise given to our children for a fair and decent education for all. All children are challenged in learning and attaining what will carry them to success as adults. My life in this aspect is a dedication to my seven children and the children in the district I willing represent.

Candidate: Szilvia Page

DBN: 03M084

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have been participating in different committees through my son`s public school`s PTA. Our Garden Committee is working on fundraising and building a community garden behind our school and a science garden on the building`s rooftop. I regularly attend to PTA meetings about all different subjects too. My younger son is attending to special education preschool, so I have plenty of experience related to Special Education. I use to be a social worker in my home country, Hungary, I took part of several non profit organizations, which helped underprivileged families and students.

Personal Statement

I have 2 children in the public school system. I spend most of my time with their school related issues, and volunteering at their schools. During my searches for schools - both General Education and Special Education -, and networking with other parents and professionals I gained so much knowledge about our school system. I believe I could be a great help for the Citywide and Community Educational Councils with my experience here in New York City, and back from Budapest.

Candidate: Janice M. Wilson

DBN: 27Q207

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Statement

I am currently serving on the CEC Dist 27. I recently had two separate IEP meetings for my special needs children. I was able to work with their educators and secure the services that they will need to succeed in school. I have been a learning leader for 4 years. I volunteered with numerous civic associations after Hurricane Sandy to help all the displaced families and students. Even while my own school was closed and my children displaced. I was co chair of the South Queens CHADD chapter. My oldest child has ADHD My daughter and I are members of the Kiwanis club. I volunteer regularly at my church and another outreach program which helps impoverished teens.

Personal Statement

I am a dedicated single mom of three children, all of whom attend ps/ms 207 in Queens.. I am finishing my first term serving as council member for district 27, and I really enjoy helping people, especially families with children who need help. Sometimes they don't know they need help. I believe the saying "It takes a village to raise a child", after dealing with destruction Sandy, it couldn't ring more true. Because I have two children who are special needs, I have become quite versed in the whole IEP process. I am no stranger to adversity and I think that we as parents need to teach our children how to deal with the many challenges they face daily. In order to do that we need to pull our experiences and resources together. WE all should have one common goal; in that our children grow and learn in a safe, nurturing environment. Our children should feel safe in school. they should feel respected, as well. We are not just parents, we are educators, and they learn from us much more than what is taught in text books. Teaching my children how to embrace the differences in others is a realistic life skill that is on my syllabus every day. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all.

Candidate: Robert Frederick Underwood

DBN: 13K282

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

1. Last year, I created and brought to PS 282 a program to teach software engineering and entrepreneurship to 4th and 5th graders, taught by local venture capitalists, Deloitte, and NYC start-ups. I am also active in several other similar programs within the city which have grown out of the NYC start-up community oriented at teaching software engineering to high school students. 2. Member of Youth, Human Services, and Education committee on Brooklyn Community Board 6. 3. Active in PS282 PTO, especially chess team parental leadership. Have piloted social media program for school and school PTO.

Personal Statement

My name is Rob Underwood. I have lived in D13, in Brooklyn, since 2000. I am married with 3 children; my 2 oldest children attend PS 282, our neighborhood zone school. My priorities if chosen to a CEC would be: 1. Promoting the benefits of diversity and diverse student bodies. 2. Creating new opportunities to expand STEM education. 3. Blending the best of the "old" with the best of "new."

What I have learned in my 13 years in Brooklyn is it is critical for those who are newer to these communities - people like me - to listen a lot first. Creating a culture that values ALL people and views is important. Advocating for those children on both the lower functioning and higher achieving ends of the spectrum. My only full sibling is mentally retarded. My two oldest were in special education for speech delays. Because of programs such as Early Intervention along with the hard work of some wonderful people at the DoE and D13 office, my children got early help and are now in G&T. Exposure to high quality education is THE critical equalizer of opportunities. Each of us must work hard to create amazing schools for all of our students, regardless of background, so they all have the best chance they can to succeed in life.

Candidate: Amanda Marquez Bradshaw

DBN: 15K001

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have volunteered my spare time coordinating trips and movie nights for various charter schools. I have also participated in an event held at CCUNY March 23, 2013 for Sea Cadets. A competition in the pool with sea perches and Navy Seals along with Navy reservists participating their support. I also plan on continuing time spent with Sea Cadets to prepare them for drill off competitions at Tilden H.S. in the near future.

Personal Statement

Actively attending college in pursuit of a degree.

Candidate: Judith Jacqueline Rodriguez

DBN: 01M188

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have been involved with variety of school related activities and fundraising I also have been serving on d.a.p.c for 2 years and currently holds a position in citywide policy council as area rep.

Personal Statement

My name is Judith Rodriguez and i would like to apply for a position on community education council. I have been involved with variety of school related activities and fundraising I also have been serving on d.a.p.c for 2 years and currently holds a position in citywide policy council as area rep. I am a parent in district 1 and i want to serve in my community were i grew up and attended school. I would like all our children in nyc to have a quality education in safe schools with great teachers. Every child deserves the best education so they can be succsesfull adults.

Candidate: Fredia Vernell McGrew

DBN: 31R061; 31R450

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was on a volunteer parent committee at P.S.31R. This particular committee helped the teachers and students with their plays in school. We also help the students study their scripts for the play as well. Also we helped with making props and the scenery for the plays too. However, I also was the parent of my son's 4th grade class back in 1998. Which allowed me to take several school trips. I was an active PTA President at P.S.31R from 1999-2000. Until my son graduated and moved on to intermediate school. I have been fully active parent in my children's life, schools and our community.

Personal Statement

I am a Licensed Therapeutic Foster Parent since 2001. Through foster care I have adopted a child in 2010. Which he does have an I.E.P, that classifies him as emotionally disturbed. However, he is in special education classes. I have been fully involved in his education, since the age of 4. Which now he is 13 years old and in the 8th grade at I.S.61. Even after my adoption I still continue to do foster care. I have 3 other children in my home, in special education as well. Two out of 3 of the children go to district 75 schools. Which I am totally involved in these schools. I meet once a month with their therapist at school. To make sure that they are still getting the education possible and their needs are being met.

Candidate: Evelyn Feliciano

DBN: 11X544

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have volunteered my services to my community with helping children to eat healthy while learning how to plant and harvest what they have grown. I am a community parent leader for Leave It Better Kids Garden. I have been working with middle school students. I was assigned to five schools by the CEC District 10 to go to PTA meetings and SLT meetings and providing information needed for parents. I've went to hearings and monthly meetings. This year I want to focus on High School Students. I want to work with getting more parents involved in our children's schools. Teachers and students are in desperate need of help. I want to be the voice to make the impossible possible. I want the best for all children and our schools. Thank you, Evelyn Feliciano

Personal Statement

I believe I can try to make a difference in our schools by providing much support to teachers and students when needed. I have a voice and I want it to be heard. Students need parents involved in their

education. I work well with children. We are one and we are all in it together. The least I can do is try my best. I believe I can.

Candidate: Sherry Nazima Algreto

DBN: 75Q009

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I attend regular PTA meetings and other meetings at my daughter's school. My son is in Special Ed and I would like to be involved since I have noticed where the systems needs improvements on and what works well for my kids.

Personal Statement

I want to be an advocate for my children and as well for others parents to make sure that our views are represented appropriately. I feel that my input could be a positive contribution which would benefit our kids.

Candidate: Charisse Thomas

DBN: 03M250

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

To Whom It May Concern, My name is Charisse Thomas and at this particular time I am the parent of a female 6th grader who attends school at MS 250- West Side Collaborative. and I am responding to the volunteer CEC position. Please find my applicant background to entail my experience. I believe I am a qualified parent/professional seeking to fill this posion and better the NYCDOE in many ways. I am currently an NYPD School Safety Agent, and, prior to this position I was a stay at home mom which would always see the PTA at my sons school which was P.S. 274 at the time and criticize them and mock them for volunteering and not getting paid until one day the PTA President which whom I conceded stated to me "Why don't you stop talking about us and join us". Low and behold it was the most rewarding experience I had ever really truly had. She registered me as a Learning Leader and it took off from there. I started volunteering in the classrooms ran for PTA President and low and behold I won. I love interacting with the public.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Andre Harrison

DBN: 31R035

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I believe unity between professional educators and parents are vital to the success of student's academic achievements.

Candidate: Stephen Kelly

DBN: 17K398; 19K404

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a learning leader volunteer, Tutor and I do the print and web design for the P.T.A I have been fortunate to be a part of a school community that has many resources for Parents of children with special needs. I have had extensive training through workshops and classes. I have had training related to special education, IEP, Medicaid Service Coordination and various other topics.

Personal Statement

I am a parent of two disabled children and have had extensive training through workshops, classes and fifteen years of experience.

Candidate: Latica Lamar

DBN: 05M499

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I want to join the education council because I want help the children of NYC to have a superb education. Getting involved will help me be apart of the solution by not doing anything makes me part of the problem.

Candidate: Leslie Ann Caraballo

DBN: The Child Development Center

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a graduate of the Early Intervention Partners Training Project, which is a parent empowerment and advocacy training program. I was recently accepted to the 2013 class of New York State Partners in PolicyMaking, which is also an advocacy training program for persons living with, or families of those with, developmental disabilities. I have spoken before the New York City Council Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, and Disability Services and also before the New York City Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council (LEICC). Most recently, I was involved in a letter-writing campaign against Governor Cuomo's 2013-2014 budget.

Personal Statement

My name is Leslie Ann Caraballo and I am the parent of a student with an IEP. At one time, that would've been very hard for me to say. I felt like the world ended the day my son was diagnosed with developmental delays. While I knew in my sorrow that my life was changed forever, I didn't know that his challenges would change me in the most positive ways. Walking the road of the special needs parent is like nothing I've ever experienced. I was forced to really look at myself—who I was, what my values were, what kind of heart I had—while also learning everything I could about services and education for my child. As I found my way on this new path, a wonderful thing happened. The interventions started to make a difference. Soon, the diagnosis that hung so heavy on my heart, turned into wings of hope. I realized that a diagnosis or disability is not a death sentence and that education and engagement can make all the difference in the lives of our children. NYC's IEP kids deserve every opportunity to get as much out of education as their typical peers. I believe in appropriate settings and services for our children, in parent empowerment, and respect for parents as full members, if not leaders, of their child's educational team. It seems that many changes are coming for special education in NYC and I want to help ensure that these are good changes, for the better. I hope you'll consider me for a place on this council, as I am very passionate and ready to take on the responsibility. Thank you.

Candidate: Carla Lorraine Lewis-Irizarry

DBN: New York Institute of Special Education

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

As an Adjunct Lecturer with the Department of Children and Youth Studies at Brooklyn College City University of New York and over a decade of professional experience working in the public sector, as a former social worker with the City of New York Administration for Children's Services, I have provided support and advocacy services to foster care children/youths and disabled children and their families. I am an advocate for individuals with disabilities and students in the CUNY Community. My efforts have

led to the Founding of the Able Forces Club in 1993 as an undergraduate student, a Disability Club in teaching awareness about disability issues to disabled/non-disabled students in the college community, and workshops to address the educational and accommodation needs of individuals with disabilities. As such, students often approach me for expert advice on how to lead student and professional organizations and address all types of needs that will help facilitate a health, rewarding educational experience.

Personal Statement

I have always said “in order to be a leader, you must know how to serve.” With that said, my name is Carla Lewis-Irizarry and I am running for the position of Education Council/Citywide Committee Education Council on Special Education. As a leader you must be ready and willing to take on responsibility and make choices for yourself. It’s not a responsibility that was thrust upon you by someone, but a responsibility that you took upon yourself because you believe that you are the best man or woman for the job. And once you make this choice for yourself you automatically have no other option but to become a leader. As Educators we were the “eyes and ears” of rulers until relatively recently. In medieval times, the abilities to read and write, add, and subtract were all dominated by the educated elite as public employment. As the need for expert civil servants whose ability to read and write and serve the people formed the basis for developing expertise knowledge in military combat, record keeping, and levying taxes. The need for sophisticated educators began to grow, and I am ready to grow with you and this council to the next level.

Candidate: Wendy Evelyn Wick

DBN: 28Q144

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have two special needs children with IEPs, one in Kindergarten in 2013-14 and one going into the fifth grade. I am an active advocate for my children, on the Intrepid Parents Advisory Council, active member of the National Autism Association (NAA) Metro Chapter and on the Parents Association Steering Committee for three years at my daughters school. I have chaired social media, website and alumni relations chairs. I am well versed in the requirements of FAPE and LRE and due process. I have resided in Manhattan and am now in Queens and have worked with three different district CSEs in advocating for my children. My professional experience is in the area of corporate learning and I have had many teaching roles throughout my career, including teaching elementary children computer skills and instructing teachers how to incorporate technology into their curriculum. I have instructed in both spanish and english.

Personal Statement

Wendy Wick is a learning professional for an international company who has two elementary school age special needs children. Ms. Wick has a great deal of experience with the special education process in NYC, is very active in her children's schools and in the special needs community.

Candidate: Cheryl Ann Gangemi

DBN: 24Q102

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Since my son has recently become a student at PS/IS 102 school within the past year, I have participated in some Parent/Teacher Association events and in addition Parent Workshops that were offered to parents by the Parent/Teacher coordinator of the school in addition to school class events hosted outside the school.

Personal Statement

I am a full time working mom and I try my hardest to participate within the school community. As my son progresses through his school years I feel it is important for myself to be a voice for him and be involved in the process and take the time off from work to attend meetings and address issues and decisions that may affect him or other peers similar to him. My son's education is a number one priority. My son is in the Horizon Program at PS/IS 102Q and this unique class and amazing staff addresses his needs and has high levels of expectations from him and his peers. Hard work and long term goals for these children will not only show progression in their academics but embrace them so they may be part of their school community socially. I feel that being a member of the council as a parent, I can be a voice for other parents who have children within the NYC DOE who have similar needs. I feel that community plays a HUGE ROLE in a child's education. Parents and teachers need to continue to work together as a force to help our children strive and move forward and achieve all they can educationally, emotionally and socially. To quote Hillary Clinton, "It takes a village to raise a child".