

Citywide Council on High Schools - Brooklyn

Candidates

Candidate: Kenneth Cera

DBN: 13K430

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Member and Chairman of School Leadership Team of Brooklyn Technical High School for three years. Member of Brooklyn Technical High School PTA Board for three years. Volunteer Coach of Youth Soccer Teams, both in town and travel, for over ten years.

Personal Statement

I have served as the elected Chairman of Brooklyn Technical High School's School Leadership Team for three years. I am a single parent and my daughter Michelle and I moved to Brooklyn when she entered high school. Brooklyn Tech is the largest high school in NYC, and one of the largest in the country. Our SLT thus deals with many varied and complicated issues, which I have helped us to process to success. I have worked closely with the union, with the administration, with the parents, and with the students. I enjoyed enough confidence from the group to be re-elected twice. I am especially proud of the positive relationships I have made with the principal and the union representatives. In my regular working life, I am a business lawyer with my own small law firm. My work experience has helped me to run our SLT meetings effectively. My legal experience enabled me to draft new by-laws for our SLT and to advise the group on other legal issues. Overall, my experience at the largest high school in the city for nearly three years, as well as my related work experience and legal training, makes me well prepared to serve as a member of the Citywide Council on High Schools. Thank you.

Candidate: Evangelina Brens

DBN: 16K455

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have participated with the community of Fort Greene. Served as a social service referral person and shared responsibility for parent involvement in the Home Base program. Served as a family advocacy for Hispanic parent.

Personal Statement

I like to express my interest to be part of NYC Parent Leaders. I believe my combination of enthusiasm, passion for children and fifteen years of teaching experiences will be a great asset to your team. My experience serving multicultural families in English and Spanish. My bi-lingual skills encourage proactive interpersonal skills and excellent problem solving techniques. I am cooperative and genuinely concerned for the well being and involvement of students and parents.

Candidate: Alison Craiglow Hockenberry

DBN: 13K430; 21K525

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been a participant in a number of PTO groups and fundraising activities at several of my children's schools and have experience with public, private and charter schools. A mother of five children, I am also a writer, editor and Emmy Award-winning documentary producer. My parents are both teachers who raised me to value education. A graduate of Barnard College, Columbia University, I am now a resident of Red Hook, Brooklyn.

Personal Statement

With five children in five different schools in New York City, I have broad experience with a wide variety of educational settings which gives me perspective on what works and where there is room for improvement. With four children applying to schools at the same time last year (two to high school and two to middle school), I had the opportunity to explore many schools, discover quality programs, and ponder the potential for making school choice more democratic and effective and for making the promise of public education achieve its potential. High school is a critical springboard to young adulthood and the opportunity for New York City public high schools to be a pillar of academic excellence throughout the country and the world is great. I look forward to being part of supporting the success of the city's high schools and their students, and to bringing critical thinking, a positive attitude and collaborative spirit to the Citywide Council on High Schools.

Candidate: Bruce Allan Simon

DBN: 21K525

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

i was on the school leadership team at ps 107. i have been a very involved parent at my daughters schools. ps 107, brooklyn prospect charter school and edward murrow high school.

Personal Statement

hello all i am a forward thinking parent. the status quo is fine sometimes. trying and exploring new ideas is something i support 100%. my daughters currently attends 9th grade at edward murrow high school. currently i am a very active volunteer for the parents association and the murrow music sponsors. i do realize that brooklyn is a huge borough. my experience and understanding of the entire borough is unfortunately limited. please know that my interest in understanding more about what works and does not work for high schools in brooklyn is very strong. i believe communication and transparency are extremely important when representing such a large diverse group of people. thank you very much for considering me:)

Candidate: Joannette Sowell

DBN: 32K552

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently serving on the PTA and the SLT team.

Personal Statement

I have a child in H.S, and I would like to improve the education in all High Schools. I actively participate on the PTA and the School Leadership Team. I have also developed a rapport with the students, teachers, principal, parent coordinator as well as security. I have a reputation for getting the job done. I believe a child's education is the most valuable gift you can give a child. Our future depends on the education of our present students. they can't make a difference if we don't provide them with the resources they need today.

Candidate: Christopher James

DBN: 14K488

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background**Personal Statement**

Candidate: Anecia Fiona John-McCall

DBN: 15K656

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was PTA President of my daughter middle school for one year and also the Secretary for one year also. I have received two (2) awards for being an active parent in my community.

Personal Statement

As an individual who came from a very large family my parents made sure that all of there eight (8) children got a solid education. This always made a positbve impact on me, for my parents did not have an education. To see such dedication from my parents always inspire me to reach out to every child that I come across, to encourage, uplift and motivate them in every way possible. My Mission is to see every child no matter what challenges that they have to have a solid education and to see them achieve their goals in life.

Candidate: Myrtho Severe

DBN: 13K670

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

This would be my first involvement.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Nicole C. Johnson

DBN: 15K656

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Parent Volunteer at Public School Louis Marshall; PurElements Dance School; HEYEO ORG for girls Member of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) Parent Advocate (Families for Schools of Excellence) Girl Scouts Local Community Activist Member of EBA (Eastern Baptist Association) Participate in various workshops within the community regarding education; housing & family matters

Personal Statement

I find myself to be a very well- rounded individual with a vivacious & charismatic personality in which many people gravitate too. Because of my life experiences it helps me to focus on what is most important. That is shaping the bright minds of our children, as well as other adults. The key is education & hands on life experiences. I truly believe that "we" can make a difference!

Candidate: Ramon Peguero

DBN: 14K561

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

i've been involved in the CEC since it was established. In addition, i've had very stron relationship with P.S. 18, P.S. 19, as well as P.S. 84. In addition, i have conducted a children toy drive for the past 10 years to ensure that the children of our community have a gift for the holidays.

Personal Statement

I believe that we should all try to be members of the Community Education Council. To me, it makes sense to be involved in a Council that has so much information to give to parents, and gives me the opportunity to better understand the system that regulates my children's education. Only through parent involvement will true reform of our educational system happen.

Candidate: Stanley Ng

DBN: 13K430

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

2011-2013 - CCHS - Citywide Council for High Schools, Lower Manhattan Representative (D1, D2, D3), Treasurer, Chair of the CCHS Capital Plan Committee. 2009-2011 - CEC - 2nd VP - District 20 2007-2009 - CEC - Member, District 20 2001-2006 - President Council. PTA officer, School Leader Team (SLT) , Title I sub-committee , C30 process. 1988-2003 - Baruch College Alumni Association Board of Directors member Started by raising money selling cupcakes for PTA, worked my way up the ladder, then TWICE elected to D20 CEC - 2007 - 2011. While on D20 CEC, SHSI a free test prep program that prepared 7th/8th grade kids for the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT), D20 Asian/white students were being excluded from the SHSI based on their background, I sued DOE in 2007. As a result, the SHSI's admissions policies were changed in 2009 to allow Title I (poor FREE LUNCH) kids from all backgrounds to benefit from that program. My own children never benefited from the DOE's SHSI program, links: <http://tinyurl.com/cd6wu8z> <http://tinyurl.com/2apqh5> <http://tinyurl.com/blnodrw>

Personal Statement

Current CCHS Lower Manhattan Representative (D1, D2 and D3) - over 70 HS. Work with others (ie: CEC, UFT, SLT, local politicians, CB). 2011: Early Engagement and joint public hearings involving the phase-out of Wadleigh, Manhattan Theatre Lab in D3 and Legacy, Washington Irving in D2 (D2 Pres was out of the country and I had to organized the JPH for the two D2 HS). 2012: Co-location of Manhattan Charter School II (D1), Turnaround HS, co-location of two of Success Academy K-5 charter school into Manhattan HS (Graphic Communication and Washington Irving). 2013: the co-location of a new HS into Murry Bergtraum, 75 Morton street. Chair of the Capital Plan committee for CCHS, carry out the task of gathering, prioritizing and submitting capital plan requests from 400+ NYC public high schools from all 5 borough. Requires 5+ weeks of work each year w/o help from an AA. Note to the parent selectors: I like to thank each and every one of you for all the time and effort that you put in for the NYC HS kids . I hope you will consider giving me another term as your CCHS Representative. Links:
<http://tinyurl.com/bmamor3> <http://tinyurl.com/c52c7c5>

Candidate: Marianne Russo

DBN: 21K525

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Citywide Council for H.S. Brooklyn Representative November 2012 - June 2013, PTA Co-President at IS 98 2012-2013, PTA Vice President IS 98 2012-2013, District 21 CPAC representative 2012-2013, CEC 21 Council Member 2010-2011, PTA President PS 215 2008-2009, PTA Co-President PS 215 2006-2008, District 21 Leadership Team Member 2008-2010, Learning Leader volunteer 2001-2007, PS 215 School Leadership Team member 2001-2013.

Personal Statement

I will be effective on the Citywide Council for HS with the experience I have gained in serving these past five months continuing to speak for High School students needs. As a member of the CCHS representing Brooklyn I have been involved in representing the parents voice in the school closure hearing for Freedom Academy HS in D13 and phase-out hearing of Sheepshead Bay HS in D22. I spoke for parents rights at the Joint Public Hearings and the PEP meeting. I wish to accurately convey information regarding changes to the Regents exams for HS students to the parents.

Candidate: Linda Alleyne

DBN: 22K495

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

communicating with students that having trouble speaking English.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Eloise Thomas

DBN: 17K547

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Member of reviewing committee for the appointment of key personnel, met with the Superintendent of Brooklyn High Schools and member of Parent Association.

Personal Statement

My name is Eloise Thomas, mother to a 16 year old son currently in the 11th grade at Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment. I hold a Master's degree in Business Administration and I'm currently employed as an Associate Registrar. I have a good understanding of the education system both as an education administrator and as a parent, and therefore understand the role I would need to fulfill as a member of the Citywide Council for high schools. It is my deep belief that in an attempt to fully satisfy the needs of our high schoolers, parents should have a voice in the education of our children through the Governing body. My understanding of the education system has been heightened through my involvement with BASE. As a parent, I've been actively involved with the Parents' Association, assisted in the recruitment process of key personnel, have had dialogue with the Superintendent for Brooklyn High Schools – Ms. Karen Watts regarding BASE's overall performance. The lines of communication between faculty and me have been very beneficial. It would therefore be my privilege to help support the school, staff and parents by bringing my knowledge, experience and professional skills to the Council in any way I can.

Candidate: Sikkim M. Assing

DBN: 15K592

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am currently PTA secretary 2012-2013, also on student leadership team. One day weekly I help in school office. Also in PS11

Personal Statement

I think it is important that every parent be involved in knowing what their child and other children are getting in the quality of their education. So many parents want to get involved when their child is failing but could have been avoided if they made an effort from the beginning. It's up to the parents in the community to make change for the education of their community schools.

Candidate: Asquith Michael McClean

DBN: 22K495

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

My relationship with the Department of Education is that I am a parent of three children in Public schools, in 10th grade, 5th grade, and Pre-Kindergarten, respectively. My oldest child is a Sophomore at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, also an alumni of Sheepshead Bay High School.

Personal Statement

My name is Asquith McClean, I have been a resident of Brooklyn, NY for over thirty years. I am a Longshoreman in the port of New York and New Jersey, and a member of ILA Local 1588. I am the parent of four children who have all attended NYC public schools. My motivation for running for the CEC for High Schools, is that I know I can contribute to the education of our students at the High School level because I've had success with my own children. Students succeed with sustainable involvement of those responsible for educating them. I believe that with the current Department of Education Budget of \$24.4 billions, and an operating budget of \$19.7 billions, it's hard to understand why our High School students are not well prepared in Math and Science by the time they graduate. There is a disconnect here, the unequal funding of the schools, in my opinion, contribute to this failure. Everything is test-based, the schools are faced with being defunded and placed on the chopping block. It is unfair to blame the children for all the reasons why they're not succeeding when they're not given a true chance to do so.

Candidate: Deborah Batiste

DBN: 16K455

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

In recent years I have tutored children from Kindergarten through to High School. I find that one on one teaching provides a better learning environment for our children. They are free to ask any questions at any time. In addition, there is less pressure and distractions from class mates. In the future I hope to open my own Children's Center that will focus on developing mental as well as physical strengths in our children. Other activities included me along with other adults and children from the "What About The Children" organization volunteering to assist at the Rye Triathalon. We distributed water to the athletes, cleaned up and gave out fliers. Seeing the athletes compete was an exciting experience. However, having the opportunity to assist was even better.

Personal Statement

My personal goal is to assist children in learning. However, the typical educational system we provide here in NYC does not allow our children freedom to express themselves. It doesn't allow them the opportunity to grow from within. Therefore most of them are not learning. This is a challenge I would like to embrace. I want to listen to our children. I want to hear what they are saying...without judgement. Shouldn't we all?

Candidate: Dannelle Anita Johnson

DBN: 15K656

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I volunteer in local community and resident's Associations such as Red Hook Green Committee and Former Community Board No 6 member and I am President/CEO/Founder of Peoples Urban Films PUF Foundation Inc. (c/o PUF Foundation Inc) Community-Based nonprofit that provides education, literacy, youth development/leadership, environment, STEM and community involvement and digital media in low income communities.

Personal Statement

I will work hard to help promote education, healthy learning, safety, nutrition and STEM education and community awareness to advocate on health, wellness and safety our children education and learning in NYC Public Education. Sincerely, Dannelle Johnson

Candidate: Celia Green

DBN: 75K368

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: Peter A. Amentas

DBN: 20K490

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I am a Viet Nam veteran, retired career federal law enforcement with strong leadership skills. I was a college academic advisor with a Master's degree in education. I have served for 26 years as a founding member, active EMT, and Chairman Board of Director with an active volunteer ambulance corp.

Candidate: Yonette Sealey

DBN: 18K617

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am participant of the PTA at all of my children's schools and have been elected to the position of Vice president of the PTA at East Flatbush Community Research School.

Personal Statement

I am the mother of three children at different stages in their academic pursuits. I offer insight on the public education that my children receive from elementary through high school. I am a resource for parents, students and the school. When elected to the council I hope to add my voice on behalf of parents.

Candidate: Rezaul Karim, MD

DBN: 13K430

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I am very much interested to join in to this council.

Candidate: Maria Casal

DBN: 21K410

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Abraham Lincoln HS PTA president, Special Education

Personal Statement

My desire is to help educate and spread the resources available to parents of students including those who do not speak the English language. Parents need to be informed of the options and rights they have regarding their child's education especially during HS years where preparation for college occurs.

Candidate: Stephen Kelly

DBN: 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.