

Community Education Council – District 1

Candidates

Candidate: Arnette Charray Scott

DBN: 01M184

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have participated with the CEC for District One

Personal Statement

My ultimate goal is to maintain diversity and educational equity for District One students. I will work to repair the schools that have found themselves broken and work to increase the strength of those schools that have managed to maintain or exceed NYS standards.

Candidate: Naomi Pena

DBN: 01M450

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am the mother of a middle school-er and a grade school student. Come September 2013, I will also have twins entering the Pre-K. My 12 Yr old son is in a ICT classroom setting and my 7yr old son is in Gen. Ed. They both receive special services such as SEETS and speech therapy. I have been active parent in the PTA and I officially joined Manhattan Charter School's Family Association as a committee member.

Personal Statement

I have been a resident of the East Village/Lower East Side all my life. As a CEC committee board member, I believe you have to advocate for the progress of children of the community. It's best said that it takes a village to raise a child. This neighborhood is just that village where you know everyone. We all have a network of family of friends for carpools and for emergencies. I am very passionate the education for all children. I believe the role of a parent is to advocate for children and be their voice. I would be honored to be on the CEC panel to be part of a group of parents want to improve the education of all children.

Candidate: Latesha Moore

DBN: 01M364

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Participated on NYC Head Start Policy Council where we helped with the federal, state and local agencies help make and regulate the rules and regulations within 72 Head starts in New York city in which affect 19,000+ children and families within the system.

Personal Statement

We are pioneers on a new frontier of child care and I ask you to join me on this journey. I join the PA/PTA like many of you so I could give something to not only my child, but to all children. In my time here I have learned so much and I am still learning, and shared much with the schools and community I came from. Now as we stand on the verge of more budget cuts and schools losing funding we must find new and inventive ways to ensure our children's futures. My experiences on Policy Council and PA/PTA have taught me a lot. Now that my child is currently in the second grade, I would like to expand and branch out to the CEC and learn how to be more of an advocate for not only my child but all of District 1.

Candidate: David Billotti

DBN: 01M110; 01M315

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am on the SLT in my daughter's school, and attend PTA meeting at both schools. I volunteer when I can, and assist on things like fundraising or event staff.

Personal Statement

I believe in strong public schools as a way to strengthen community and as a way to provide children with an educational experience that reflects the world in which they live. Professionally, I work closely with NYC public schools as a senior manager at The Center for Arts Education, a non-profit dedicated to the idea that the arts are a critical part of a well-rounded education. Personally, with boy and girl twins in two very different public schools and school communities, I understand firsthand the challenges that students, parents, teachers and administrators face every single day in ensuring the highest of standards are met for our children. It would be a privelege to assist in helping meeting that challenge by being part of the CEC.

Candidate: Marco Battistella

DBN: 01M364

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Marco Battistella has lived in District 1 since 1994, year in which he moved to the United States from Italy, his native country. He has been involved in various forms of community organizing since his teen years. Published "Multitalk" a non for profit bilingual (English and Spanish) newspaper in the lower east side from 1996 to 2000. Marco has participated and organized numerous grass root events in the area of direct democracy, active non violence and human rights.

Personal Statement

"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." (Sign hanging in Einstein's office at Princeton)

Candidate: Kimberly Nicole Rivera

DBN: 01M019

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have not worked directly with the NYC DOE school system, but I have worked with school-age children in an after school setting. That experience had allowed me get a feel for the educational needs for the age group, and help fill in the "gaps" between between schools and parents. I no longer work with children, but I have brought with me a great understanding now that I have a school-age child in the NYC public school system.

Personal Statement

Having worked with children for so many years, I've always felt the need to stay connected to my children's education. It can be a challenge these days, with busy work schedule and time constraints, to keep up with what and how our children are learning. Often, there are opportunities in my daughter's school to attend a workshop or a PTA event that I just can't make it to. Hearing about the Community Education Counsel excited me! I had not known about it, and immediately felt the need to get more information. I feel that this is a great opportunity for me to fit in and become more involved. I have always felt that our children's education falls first on the shoulders of us parents. Lot's of parents are not well educated on the public school system. It cannot be as easy as just dropping off our children in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon. Educating ourselves on the intricate policies of our children's schools and helping shape them is a wonderful way to take charge of our young learners. I would be honored to be a part of such a team.

Candidate: Olivia Anna Islam

DBN: 01M063

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was on the Policy Council at Grand Street Settlement for 2 years. I served as the Chairperson of the Grievance the 1st year. The 2nd year I served as the Chairperson. In Girls Prep Charter school I served on The Community Council. SO I have 3 years of experiance. I served from Nov. 2009 to June 2012.

Personal Statement

I love volunteering to help our future, our children. Our children are our precious resource that we need to nurture. "It takes a village to raise a child". I truly believe in that saying. We need to invest in our future.

Candidate: Dashawn McLaurin

DBN: 01M034

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I am applying to become a parent leader to support my daughter's school; P.S. 34. I am a firm believer that parents must get involved, not only at home but also in the classroom. I am a people person and love working with children. Most importantly I want to become involved in support of Amina Owusu's school and maybe inspire more parents to do the same.

Candidate: Sondra Sgarlato

DBN: 01M363

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Was recently appointed a member of the SLT team and have a strong desire to work full time for the DOE

Personal Statement

Be the change you wish to see in the world

Candidate: Daniel Scott Becker

DBN: 01M110

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was first appointed to serve on CEC1 to fill a vacancy, then I was elected to serve for a two (2) year term. I am currently 1st Vice President. I also serve as a member of the PS 110 SLT and as an Executive Board Member of the PTA.

Personal Statement

I believe my record "speaks for itself" but I would emphasize that I am deeply committed to making sure that District One remains a district of "choice" admission to any school within the district is based on a desire to attend a school regardless of what zone a person resides in. In line with this notion is the commitment to fight for equal access to programs and services regardless of zip codes. Only through diversity can educational equity be met.

Candidate: Moses Seuram

DBN: 01M034

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently serving as Community Rep on The NYC citywide policy council for Head Start at 66 John Street. Recent outgoing Area Rep for South Jamaica Cluster. Atten Parent meeting at PS34.

Personal Statement

I have served for the past 2 years at the Jamaica Center for Children and Parents Inc- a NYC Headstart Program. I served as 2012 Area Rep on Citi Wide Policy Council at 66 Jonh street. I have arrange for parent outing with children, volunteered in class rooms, attend mens group meetings at program. Received the Father of Distintion Award in 2012. Help with Fund Raising at Headstart/NYC Early Learn. Currently Serves as the President on the board of Realtors.

Candidate: Lee S. Berman

DBN: 01M110

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was appointed by the CEC to fill a vacancy in March 2013. I have been a volunteer member of the PTA at my child's school for six years, including terms as treasurer and member at large, and also serve as a member of the SLT. I have been a board of director for three years in the apartment complex on the Lower East Side where I have lived all of my life, and now raise my two children. I have been a vocal advocate of improving the quality of public school education in District One, at the local community level, as well as at CEC meetings, before local politicians and in local, national and international media. As a parent of a child diagnosed with a learning disability, I have tried to help others in my local school community to navigate the system to get the best education for their children, as well as helping parents to learn how to be the best advocate for their child. I have a law degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and work in local government.

Personal Statement

I wish to serve on the CEC in order to be an advocate for ALL children of public school in District One. I was born and raised on the Lower East Side, and went to the very same public school where I send my two children. I choose to raise my children here and find our children have no greater advocate than involved and concerned parents and guardians. Every child, no matter their race, creed, income or disability deserves every opportunity to thrive and excel and to receive best possible public education. Throughout my six years of sending my children to public school I have found untold numbers of people, both in my local school, as well as other schools within the district, whose voices were not being heard- they felt they had no one to listen to their concerns- a feeling that no parent in New York City should ever have to experience. As a member of the CEC I can speak for those in the community who need someone to champion their rights and help remind the DOE that our children are people, not just numbers.

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.