

Community Education Council – District 18

Candidates

Candidate: Chrisina Kennedy

DBN: 18K276

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have done volunteer work with Brooklyn Generation High School at the South Shore High School complex. I supported the wellness staff's efforts to improve attendance rates. I met with parents to development plans of action to address attendance issues. Additionally, I assisted with the processing of paperwork to discharge students who aged-out of the public school setting and provided them with alternative options for obtaining High School equivalent education.

Personal Statement

My name is Chrisina Kennedy and I am the mother of four children, two of which are school age and attend public school. I am interested in serving as a member of the Community Education Council for three important reasons. First, I attended public school as a child and I am indebted to the teachers and administrators that contributed to my educational experience. I was blessed to have the benefit of teachers who were genuinely interested in providing their students with a quality education. Although I had some personal bumps in the road toward my pursuit for education, I am convinced that I would not have achieved as much from an education standpoint without a strong foundation. Secondly, I feel a sense of personal obligation to my children to provide them with the support they will need to obtain the very best education possible. Finally, I am convinced that parent involvement helps establish good partnerships and accountability. Our children need to know that we are concerned about their future's. The best way to communicate this concern is to get involved and let our voices as parents be heard.

Candidate: Alison John-Williams

DBN: 18K366

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Sonia Forde-White

DBN: 18K272

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Former school nurse, two of those spent with the autistic population, and then with general education. Presently sits at the PTA President at PS272 and is currently on the CEC18 board. I am the liaison for IS211 and PS272 and the CEC level. Very active parent in the community, fighting for the rights of our children and ensuring education district 18 resigne supreme in the academic world.

Personal Statement

Registered Nurse, living the canarsie community for over 20 years. Working in the community and the mother of four children all of which attended district 18 schools. Presently sitting on the CEC18 board, and very active in the community representing the needs of our children.

Candidate: Nica Marcellus

DBN: 18K279

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Mitsy Nathalee Traore

DBN: 18K276

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am currently a PTA treasurer, SLT member and Parent Member at IEP meetings for PS 276 and IS 68. I am a parent of two children with a disabilities who is passionate and dedicated in helping other parents learn different strategies on how they can better help thier children. I have plays an important role in the life of my children grow and develop into successful learners.

Personal Statement

I am very excited to apply for a position on the CEC, and this is mainly, because I want to continue to be a great advocate for children with disabilities. I am a parent of two children with disabilities and this experience will further allow me to play an intricate role in shaping thier children's education path and other children with disabilities. I realize that especially within the minority community still lies a disconnect when it comes to partnering as parents with the schools to help thier child with a disability succeed. I believe that many parents need to better understand special education and how they can and

should be an active partner in their children's education. I am a very involved parent who is wholeheartedly desire to continue to stand in the gap for parents who are not able to. I would be grateful to be elected to serve on CEC 18. Thank you

Candidate: Jamillah Reed Boothe

DBN: 18K115

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have parented four children ranging in ages from 7-22. I spent three years as a long and short term substitute and paraprofessional in Georgia schools k-12. I am a graduate student studying school counseling k-12.

Personal Statement

Greetings. My name is Jamillah Reed Boothe. I am a person who relates to education from the educator side and parental sides of the spectrum. I have observed a decline in the quality of education that I felt that I had as a young adult and I feel it is a disservice to my children and everyone's children that this decline is not addressed. I have been a contributor to the national StudentsFirst organization as a show of support for several years. I had run in the previous election and due to some issues with voting in my district, my election to the CEC was voided. I would like to have the opportunity to join in the discussion with all parties involved regarding ways to make the system work better. I am comfortable with public speaking. I have the time available to commit to the committee. I have the passion to be affiliated with the work. Thank you.

Candidate: Nicole C. Johnson

DBN: 18K276

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: Alisa Burnett

DBN: 18K598

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

My goal is to blend my past professional experiences (customer service, staff development and teaching initiatives) in a new challenging role by working with exciting companies and entrepreneurs within the education & social services sector. My goal is to work with institutions that enable individuals to live more informed and more productive lives through enhanced access to educational resources.

Candidate: Terri Yvonne Collins

DBN: 18K068

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently serve as PA secretary for FDA VII HS. Former PA Secretary for elementary school, PS 22 located in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. Currently, serve on School Leadership Team (SLT) of FDA VII HS

Personal Statement

I was born and raised in Harlem; and received my education (K-12) from the New York City Public School System. I am a college graduate with a BS degree in Health Information Management. My brother, and my mother (UFT delegate and retired) both worked as teachers in the New York City Public School system. My father was District 5 school president back in the early 70's. Although, I did not pursue a career in an educational setting, public school policy runs in my blood. I have two children, one who will be graduating from high school this spring, and the other a 6th grade student in middle school. I am a very actively involved parent who believes that in order for a child to succeed in school, the parent must be actively involved. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Community Education Council. Giving me the chance to have a voice and make decisions regarding the education of the children of New York City would be a personal accomplishment for me. It is my strong desire to effectively make a difference in my child's education as well as the children in my community and district.

Candidate: Yonette Sealey

DBN: 18K268; 18K581

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: Jerome P. Smith

DBN: 18K066

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I served as P.S 66 Vice President of the Parent Association for two years and as Parent Association Treasurer for one year. In my junior year in college I volunteered to work with eight grade student at Boys Harbor Academy in Harlem to assist in, with student who were struggling with in Algebra. I aslo worked with Flatbush YMCA as a teen mentor for several years, I also coordinated youth sports program for the Flatbush YMCA from 1995- to 2010.

Personal Statement

Candidate: James Anthony Dandridge

DBN: 18K066

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

a)Currently serving as President of Community Education Council District #18 b)Currently serving as Chairman of the Bildersee Beacon School (IS68)Advisory Board c) Currently serving as Commissioner of the Community Education Council Basketball League.

Personal Statement

As a parent volunteer I have embraced the responsibility of representing the children and parents of District #18 in all issues relating to the enhancement of the education provided for all students in our district. I welcome the challenge of continuing to address the complex needs of our district, as well as providing valuable input obtained from parent feedback at the monthly Education Council meetings. It is my hope and desire to be selected and provided with the chance for continued service.

Candidate: Guerline Blaise

DBN: 18K115; 18K272

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have classroom experience as a student teacher. I am a social workers and care deeply about education issues.

Personal Statement

I'm a parent of 2 young public school boys. I am involved in their education because of challenges faced in school funding, teacher effectiveness and proper communication to parents. We began early telling our children that education is the doorway to success. I agree that education can open many doors. But, what happens to those who are unable to obtain a quality education? As parents it is important that we take some responsibility. We need to stand up for the rights of children to be highly educated. NYC has a long way to go to fix education, but it can be done. Being part of CEC18 would be a great opportunity to find different solutions and shape policies. The high value I place on education makes me an ideal candidate. After obtaining my undergraduate degree, I gained experience in student teaching where I learned that to bring about change, effective polices are also needed. CEC's hold this potential. I would be a strong advocate for students and families. I look forward to working with other CEC members who share my goal to ensure all students meet their potential. I am confident that my commitment to education will be value add to the CEC. I am consistent, reliable and experienced in public education issues.

Candidate: Kathy Donovan

DBN: 18K279

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have volunteered and assisted with many different functions/programs at my childrens' schools; when needed I do my best to help. I volunteer for the following organizations: Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (Publicist) E.D Garnes Ministries, Inc. (Administrative Assistant) Christian Education at Tabernacle of Praise Cathedral (Teacher).

Personal Statement

As a parent of two students attending New York City Public Schools I feel very strongly about becoming a Community Education Council member. My children are in 1st and 10th grade. I am passionate about education, knowledge is power. I believe that every child should be prepared from an early age to attend and graduate college. We have to close the achievement gap, especially for our children living in low income communities. We have to break the cycle of poverty. These children must be given the opportunity to achieve a college education just like other children from wealthier neighborhoods. When a child from a poor neighborhood graduates from college, this will inspire others to do the same. Education/teaching does not end in the classroom; it is our responsibility as parents to continue teaching them at home. We have to make sure that they do their homework, and we have to check it. If additional help is needed in terms of tutoring, it is imperative that we get them the assistance. Many schools offer free tutoring, if it is available, they need to participate. Also, I am a Sunday school teacher; my students are ages 6 – 10. I not only teach my students about spirituality, I spend time with them discussing their academic work, and any issues they are having at school. As a Council member my mission would be to work hard to shape the education polices for NYC public schools and our students.