

Community Education Council – District 21

Candidates

Candidate: Mohammad Akram

DBN: 21K098

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently a member of the Community Education Council District 21 and serves as the 1st Vice President. Also, a Liaison Officer for 3 different public schools. For the past few years he has been working for the CEC and feels they are making great strides. Two years ago, as the Liaison Officer for PS 188, the school's request was to have a gym, it was something they never had before. So upon receiving that request, both him and the CEC were able to push forth the request to the School Construction Authority with the cooperation of other elected officials. As a result, PS 188 now has a gym. Furthermore, he served as an Ambassador for the High School Admissions process for New York City. As an Ambassador he aided the Office of Student Enrollment to reach and teach more parents about the high school admissions process. Along with that, he attended many High School Admission open school nights in different boroughs. As well as, volunteering once a year for 5 days, for the Daily New Citizenship Now program which is sponsored by CUNY. As a volunteer, he helped answer questions people had regarding their citizenship status or any other immigration related question.

Personal Statement

I want to serve on a Community Education Council because I feel that since I am a parent of 3 children who are/have attended public school, repaying the efforts of the schooling system is best carried out by serving on the Community Education Council. I have been apart of the Community Education Council for the past few years and feel that we are making great strides, fairly quickly. The reason I feel I would be effective as a member is because I am fluent in 5 languages: English, Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi and Hindi. Being fluent in these languages will help me and the CEC reach out to parents of different backgrounds. Currently, the youngest of my 3 children is enrolled in the New York City Public School system. As a parent of 2 children who have already gone through the school system I know the challenges that are faced by Elementary, Middle and High schools.

Candidate: Randi Garay

DBN: 21K468

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been an active parent volunteer for nine years. I am currently a Community Education Council member of District 21. I have served on the School Leadership Team at P.S.212 as well as Kingsborough Early College Secondary School. I served on the P.T.A. Executive Board at P.S. 212 for five years as Vice President and President. I held various fundraiser's to support P.S. 212 with educational materials. I was a core member of the School Leadership Team for four years and a School Safety Committee member. I served on the committees for the P.T.A. and School Leadership Team by Laws, as well as to review and write the Schools Parent Involvement Policy and the Parent School Compact. I was on the Selection committee for the Parent Coordinator process and a parent member on the Quality Review. I attend the monthly Community Education Council Meetings in district 21, Community Board 13 meetings and other community events. I was a recipient of the BWECC Parent of the Year award in 2011.

Personal Statement

I would like to continue serving on the Community Education Council because I am dedicated to the children, their education and the parents of our district. I feel that as an active parent leader with my experience, I have the knowledge needed to be involved in the decision making for our schools and our community. I feel very strongly that parents should have a voice in their children's education. I want to be that voice and listen to other parents to find out what support they need to help their children reach their full potential. I would like this opportunity to continue serving the District 21 community.

Candidate: Heather Ann Fiorica

DBN: 21K228

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have been actively involved in the public school community for the past 7 years. In addition to be an active partner/advocate in my daughter's education, I have been a Learning Leader. I served as Co-President of PS 177 PTA and now am the First VP of IS 228 PTA. I have organized a variety of fundraisers and social functions for the benefit of the school, children, and parents. I was responsible for adopting by-laws, holding meetings, budgeting, and providing parent outreach. I was an active member of the SLT of PS 177 and now serving my first year as a member of the IS 228 SLT. I have worked with parents, teachers, and administrators to make important decisions about school policies as well as curriculum. I was VP and served as President of District 21's President's Council. I acted as a liaison to PTAs throughout our district. I provide assistance to PTAs by providing guidance on complying with Chancellor's regulations, bylaws, observing elections, developing new parent leaders. I am a volunteer, certified Parent Member of the DOE, I help educate and assist parents with the IEP process. I received the BWECC 2010 Parent Award. Currently I am an active member of CEC of District 21.

Personal Statement

I would like to continue serving on the CEC because I am committed to the future of our public school system and the issues faced by students. There is a certain depth of understanding that comes from personal experience. My daughter has struggled academically due to neurological disorders. I believe

the hook that lured me into parental advocacy was my experiences advocating for my daughter's future, dedicating myself to doing what had to be done to ensure that she could reach her potential. I faced uninformed specialists who were capable of seeing nothing more than limitations. I learned about the creative and proactive use of self in facing problems that need solutions. As the parent of a child with special needs, I am particularly sensitive to the needs of underrepresented groups. I would like to continue being a part of a forum designed for promoting achievement and influencing educational programs. Previous leadership opportunities have provided a strong foundation that would make me an effective candidate for service. I am passionate about our school system. I work well with others, am interested in establishing educational policy, and becoming better informed about issues faced by students in the NYC Public schools.

Candidate: Anna Lembersky

DBN: 21K099

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have been serving as a Treasurer for PS 99 PTA for almost 3 years. Prior to my election into an officer status, I have volunteered my time in assisting the PTA with its fundraising activities. I have volunteered at the Disaster Relief Centers after the Super Storm Sandy assisting victims with the insurance needs as well as FEMA related issues. I am a delegate on the Councilman Greenfield's discretionary budget committee as well as the District 21 President Council's designee on the CEC.

Personal Statement

I came to the United States of America about 20 years ago. I received the most of my education in the different education system. However, I had enough exposure to the education in this country. Having one college degree from overseas and two more from the United States gives me sufficient experience and ability to compare. I believe in education. Currently, I do not believe that our education system is serving children properly. It appears that children "learn" only material to pass the tests and they do not retain any information for future use. The statistics show that many children do not even attempt to go to college. How could they? Everything they learned, they did not retain. Children retain information up to the point of taking an exam and then "it's gone" erased from their brains. Gifted and talented programs do not promote child's growth, but instead overburden children with homework. I would like to be able to make a difference and fight on behalf of students and parents of the District in making the education system fully functional, wherein the acquired knowledge will be permanent knowledge and not passing one. Thank you.

Candidate: Julius Bowens

DBN: 21K228

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently I am a first year member and the 2nd Vice President of my daughter's school's Parent Teacher Association (I.S. 228). I act as a link between the parents and the principal, organize parent functions, and assist with fundraising efforts. I am also a member of the School Leadership team at another daughter's school (Leon M. Goldstein) and in the past I have served on several School Leadership Teams at different schools. I have been and integral member in creating the Comprehensive Educational Plans, have been on several C30 process committees to determine new principals, ensure that the school budgets were aligned with the CEP's, etc. I was a member of District 21's Community School Board for six years and was on the Community Education Council at it's inception for four years. After taking a break for a little under a year, I came back to the CEC and was re-elected to the council from 2009-2011. While on the council I was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President. I was a former Coney Island activist who worked with leaders of Coney Island, and was an active member in several community organizations such as Boys To Men committee and Astella Development Corp.

Personal Statement

I believe that I would be effective on the CEC because of my prior experience with the CEC, the community and its leaders, administrators, teachers and elected officials. My belief of children first has made me want to be involved in the workings of the CEC in an effort to insure that all children are afforded a fair opportunity for a good education. First and foremost I am a parent who is proud to have nine children who attended public schools in District 21 for the last 30 years. I believe that I have superb public relations skills and work extremely well with people from all walks of life. My expertise in dealing with all types of people would make me effective in being a liaison between parents, children, and Department of Education personnel. Given the opportunity, I am confident that I would be a very effective CEC member and an asset to the council.

Candidate: Joyce Finger

DBN: 21K128; 21K690

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 different in a positive way., and to give my help in any which way i can. This will be my first priority.

Candidate: Jyoti Sharma

DBN: 21K225

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

born Indian .experienced teaching in India for four year.Full time mom of two kids.

Personal Statement

I want to be a part of my kids education and ready to learn new things.

Candidate: Muneer Abualroub

DBN: 21K101

IEP/ELL: ELL

Applicant Background

I have no experience in any related school activities, but during the past 30 years, I raise 9 successful children, 4 children already graduate college, 1 just start college, 4 in elementary schools. And I teach many New Yorker to speak Arabic.

Personal Statement

My name Muneer Abualroub, my friends calls me "Alex". In July 1984 I arrived at the JFK airport (NY) I was 21 years of age, I came to the United States looking for better life and brighten future. I don't speak English, I don't know anybody, I have nowhere to go and I have \$100 in my pocket. For the first couple of years, I slept in Grocery store basement with mousses sharing my mattress; I worked 15 hours 7 days a week for \$150 weekly salary, till I set up my goals and direction. Now a day, I'm the owner of small business with 18 employees. To make my dream come true, I attend a collage and I obtain my first associate degree in of arts in business, in December 2012 I graduate with bachelor degree of science in business. At this moment, I'm getting my MBA in human resources expected to graduate in November 2013.

Candidate: Tomasina Ann Bacarella

DBN: 21K281

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I did volunteer work in my sons prior school I helped out with door duty and school walkathons as a chaperone

Personal Statement

Candidate: Yoketing Eng

DBN: 21K215

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I Have been the President of the District 21 Community Education Council for about 6 years. I have held public hearings on the Co location of Charter school for PS 188, PS 329, and IS 303. Held Meetings with the Department of Education to regain Gifted and Talented Classes back for PS 212, PS 329, and PS 188. Held meetings with the Department of Education on various rezoning issues in District 21. Currently serving on the District 21 leadership team to discuss and propose curriculum and other educational standards mandated by the State and the District Comprehensive Educational Plan. Fought to restore free yellow busing for the 7th and 8th graders of District 21. Helped to prioritize the Five Year Capital plan so that our schools may gain their fair share of facility capital. Developed relationships with various legislators, and DOE officials, so that I may advocate for the schools and children of District 21. Currently Brooklyn Borough appointee to Community Board 11.

Personal Statement

As the Community Education Council President for District 21, I have established working relationships with various Department of Education officials, legislators, and community based organizations to support our schools and Children's educational needs. I am a people person. I am not afraid to work, and deal with different types of people. I am a firm believer of parent advocacy, and collaboration with our education community for the betterment of our children's education. I believe in small class size. I believe in training out teachers to be effective. I believe that our schools should be given the proper resources and funds to teach our children. Our Children is the future of America. I believe that poverty is societies worst enemy, and that a quality education is one effective way to combat poverty. I will always fight for parent's rights and children's rights to have the best education.

Candidate: Sean Chin

DBN: 21K097

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

This will be my first active role with the school community. I'd like to offer my work experience in Finance, both from a leadership and hands-on perspective to the education council.

Personal Statement

Education involves commitment at from all sides - parents, students, teachers, administrators, etc. As a parent, I am committed to my children's education, offering all the help that our family can provide. As a parent education council member, I would like to ensure our policies and future policies comply with the mission statement of the education system.

Candidate: Benjamin Yehuda Shurin

DBN: 21K226

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Evangelean Pugh

DBN: 21K329

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have served the community on the council for four years there's a. Everytime theirs a issue concerning my community I have been sure to be there for the children to serve their needs .for the best answer for the betterment of them all. I feel good to be able to do my part. .And hold up my end. While being able to see to my own children .I really like the work that Iv'e done in my part of the world. I would like you to help me ,help you. When you can't I will be there with a little know how, a little love I can sometimes make things the way you want them to be.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Maria Casal

DBN: 21K226

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.