

Community Education Council – District 22

Candidates

Candidate: Patricia Jolivin

DBN: 22K193; 22K381

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Volunteered with the Rucker basketball organization, promoting and coordinating special events and activities for young boys and girls throughout the city. Volunteered as a Cheerleading coach for young girls ages of 8 to 14 years in a community based Football Organization. Volunteered with Little Minds at Work Daycare Center working with infants in both learning activities, imaginative play and social skills.

Personal Statement

It wasn't until the age of 27 that I made a commitment to pursue an advanced education. Unsure of my future, I knew more lucrative job opportunities would come by pursuing a college degree. I decided to take on the challenge and in 2007; I graduated from Monroe College Cum Laude. At my commencement ceremony I walked with my two children to receive my degree. The challenges that I have encountered in life gave me the gift of empathy and understanding towards others. I found ways to connect with our youth and aid them in enhancing their way of thinking. The road I have traveled as a single mother, while pursuing an education and my position at NYC DOP made me understand the importance of early education and intervention. My most meaningful experiences have come from tutoring my children. I have broadened their horizons by identifying and nurturing their gifts. I learned to see in all children, what I see in my own" a wealth of intelligence, spirit, and untapped potential. I made a commitment to guide our youth in embracing the challenges of life and to assist them in meeting their goals to a better future. Clearly, one of the goals of education is to develop people who can make meaningful contributions to society or world.

Candidate: Maria C. Newsom-Fahey

DBN: 22K217

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

For two years now, I have served as the bake sale coordinator/fundraiser for our Parents' Association. I also serve on the school garden committee and have been very active in the "greening" of our neighborhood. I have registered my own block for the "Greenest Block in Competition" the past two years and plan to do so again. I am implementing a volunteer-run tree-watering schedule for 9 newly-

planted street trees alongside our schoolyard on Coney Island Avenue at Newkirk (7 died last year and were replanted.) I have just been named to serve as "public member" on Community Board 14's Community Environmental Committee. I actively compost all family food scraps at Compost for Brooklyn!

Personal Statement

I grew up in Boerum Hill and lived, for many years, in Carroll Gardens. I now embrace my new neighborhood, "Parkville," at the southern end of Kensington. I have two boys in public school in the area. I am committed to improving the quality of life of all residents of our neighborhood, particularly the children. I have requested the planting of many new street trees and have been gratified to see them go into the ground. I have organized neighborhood children and adults into stewarding them. I am actively working on improving our schoolyard-to-playground at 217 by addressing poor drainage issues with DOE's Department of Facilities and restoring the non-working sprinkler and water fountain. I am pleased to say the schoolyard now drains after a rainstorm and the sprinkler and water fountain are slated to be repaired this spring. In conclusion, I operate under the firm belief that your school and your community are what you make of them; the resources are there, you need only tap into them. By becoming active in school and community, you can surprise yourself with fairly rapid, positive results.

Candidate: Josephine Salvador Gibson

DBN: 22K217

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I've been active in PS217's school PTA, supporting the various community-building and fund-raising activities. I also served on the SLT, as a volunteer "extra" non-voting parent in attendance. I am an educator in another school system and as such have been an advocate for sane school practices, school-community connections and support of teacher-parent partnering.

Personal Statement

I am honored to be part of the CEC that supports not only my child's school community but all students' learning. With over 25 years experience as a teacher and administrator, I see the value of parents being actively involved in the life of schools-- partnering with teachers and school leaders to help the community thrive and students to learn in a safe, exciting and inspiring way. It is absolutely essential for parent voices to be at the table, to learn about the challenges school leaders face and to offer support and resources, as they can, to help teachers. All volunteering efforts-- not matter how "small"-- are in service to our students' learning.

Candidate: Nabila Sharif

DBN: 22K222

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

volunteered at the school library

Personal Statement

Candidate: Zoryana Radyuk

DBN: 22K234

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Vitalina Rozenfeld

DBN: 22K206

IEP/ELL: ELL

Applicant Background

Summer Camp Counselor Higher Education Instructor

Personal Statement

Working with the parents in our community, and based on the continuous needs assessment, I will strive to expand our children's access to optimal educational resources. I can be the link between parents' priorities and educational programs that help our children realize their true potential.

Candidate: Elizabeth B. LeBlanc

DBN: 22K217

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I was an elementary school art teacher in a Brooklyn Public School for 6 years during which time I worked with a large ELL population. I currently work as an art teacher at a preschool serving special education students, most of whom move on to special education and integrated education programs in Brooklyn Public Schools. I work with my daughter's PTA on the Garden Committee and have written grants to bring arts education to her school.

Personal Statement

As a parent, educator, and concerned citizen who has lived in District 22 for the past 13 years I am deeply committed to the ideal of high quality education for all of the students in our community. Having had experience as a Brooklyn Public School teacher in the past, and now as a public school parent I am in a unique position to see our district's challenges and opportunities from many view points.

Candidate: Vadim Medvedev

DBN: 22K255

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I'd like to participate in schools decisions and encouraging parents involvement in the school community. Create positive school climate and make school community works together to make students progress so help prepare them for college careers success in live.

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 forum that my son's school has held. I attended several outside meetings that were being offered thru my son's Family Head Start program. Simply, to get as much informed 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: Betty Voltaire

DBN: 22K193

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Recently, my son and I woke up early to bake cookies for his class Cookie Party. I helped the PA prepare for the third day of their Book Fair and the book/bake sale at parent-teacher conferences. Before we transferred to 193, I was asked to speak to a group of parents who had enrolled their children at my son's school. I was proud to be part of this family and welcomed the opportunity to be involved in parent meetings and family days just as my father had been involved. School plays, parent teacher conferences and school fund raiders are important parts of family involvement. In addition to furthering my own education as a MSW student, I work to volunteer as often as possible or share with others how they can give back. After Superstorm Sandy, I told myself I had to give back to others who were impacted and fulfilled my promise at Occupy Sandy's headquarters and at the Bay Ridge kitchen the day before it closed. I enjoy giving back at the Food Bank of NY's pantry and soup kitchen in Harlem and became involved in An Nu Ede Ayiti's (Let Us Help Haiti) efforts to get supplies to survivors and victims of Haiti's earthquake in 2010. I also volunteered for We Are New York, an English conversation group for immigrants.

Personal Statement

I have clear and distinct memories of my father being involved when I was a child and I carry the sense of support I felt with me when it comes to my son's schooling. Other than just supporting my son, however, joining the CEC means giving a voice to all of our children and the families who love them and are on their educational journey with them. Being in a MSW program has taught and reminded me that we owe it to our children to ensure that their needs are considered when decisions are made and that they are afforded the access and programs necessary to have the best education possible. Involvement leads to success and we can all succeed if we all get involved.

Candidate: Deborah Perkins

DBN: 22K234

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Flatlands Civic Association, Communication Leadership St.Pauls Methodist Church, Parent Teacher Association: Herbert. G Birch, Parent Council

Personal Statement

I believe in active participation in our children's education. This participation should include flow through their outside activities. Parents are the most important and first role models in their children's lives. Parental engagement activities help lead children to see how important they are in making future decisions, in school and in their neighborhood. I have been active in my child's education progress since pre-school. My involvement has allowed me to empower parents in their navigation through the public school system. This is why I would love to continue to serve on the Community Education Council.

Candidate: Aaliyah Thomas

DBN: 22K109

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Upon my daughter's admittance to public school, I have been an active member of the Parent Teacher Association. I currently hold a learning leaders badge and am a member of the school leadership team.

Personal Statement

As a parent and former student of the NYC Public School system, my experiences allow me to understand the perspectives of both the parent and child. My education and active involvement in the schools allow me to assess the needs of our teachers and schools. I am more than capable to act as a liaison between the schools and the community to better meet our children's needs.

Candidate: Melvina Douse-Manuel

DBN: 22K207

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been an active member of the school PTA since my oldest child's entrance into the public school system. As such, my family has made monetary donations and has dedicated extra hours by volunteering in PTA sponsored fundraising activities. I am a board member of Mae's Breathe Cancer Advocacy Foundation of Brooklyn. I have special experience working with students with special needs populations. I have had relationships with numerous agencies and conducted outreach to the Manhattan Developmental Disability Council, Brooklyn Independent Living Center, HASC, Brooklyn Independent Living Center, Mayor's Office for People With Disabilities, YAI, Heartshare, Synergia Inc. and Catholic Charities as a parent and advocate.

Personal Statement

As a parent of two children attending public schools, I am a strong believer in a parent's role in the educational process. If elected to this position, I will bring to the table the voices of those parents who are not heard and make sure that their best interests for their children are always addressed. I believe that all children have the right to a free education that is in a safe environment. I believe that children should be attending schools with a zero tolerance for bullying and prejudice. I believe in inclusion education and for recruiting educators that can adapt to teaching children with all needs. I have conducted outreach to parents of children with special needs and I have offered my support to all parents that need assistance in navigating the system. I believe that I can provide valuable input on improving our educational system and for improving the resources available to parents of District 22.

Candidate: Yelena Ratush

DBN: 22K222

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am constantly in touch with school assistant principal on school policies. Participated in a book fair, a school trip, etc.

Personal Statement

I would like to be involve in improvements of the current educational system. I actively discuss school problems with other fellow parents, and I can see the system flows from a parent perspective. I believe that my background in Political Science and my experience in a legal field will benefit Community Education Councils.