

## Community Education Council – District 26

### Candidates

**Candidate: Leslie Rubenstein**

**DBN:** 26Q041

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Background**

I have worked in the field of public education for the past 22 years as a teacher and supervisor of teachers. I worked for 9 years as a high school social studies teacher. I taught all social studies classes in a variety of setting: honors, mainstream, ESL. In my role as an assistant principal of instruction and chairperson of two departments, I supervise co-taught inclusion classrooms in social studies grades 7-12 and supervise instruction in second language classes. I develop academic support programs for ESL students, special education students and general education students. I also supervise AP and college programs offered in my current school.

#### **Personal Statement**

As an educator for over 22 years, I have had a wide range of experiences that have prepared me to serve on this advisory board. As a teacher I employ a wide variety of instructional techniques to address the needs of all learners. As a supervisor, I have helped teachers develop their own practices that emphasize student engagement (hands-on learning, project based learning) as they prepare students for state assessments. I have also helped to develop and implement a variety of programs to support targeted populations on state assessments. Most recently, I have created programs to integrate Common Core Learning Standards into Social Studies and Language instruction at the Middle and High School levels. My experience with parents, teachers and students in grades K-12 and my familiarity with New York State graduation requirements, New York State Assessments, the Common Core Learning Standards and PARCC Assessments provide a solid foundation of knowledge and experience that I can contribute in this collective effort to improve our schools.

**Candidate: Sonal S. Shah**

**DBN:** 26Q026

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Background**

Although not an officer of my local school's PTA, I regularly attend the monthly PTA meetings. I would also like to point out that I am an educator by profession as well. I am a full-time professor/faculty member employed by New York University College of Dentistry. Furthermore, I have been appointed by the dean to several student-related committees and consequently have the experience of working in small groups towards the common goal of improving the educational process.

### **Personal Statement**

As a parent actively involved in the education of my young children that have just begun their formal public education, I have many ideas and suggestions that I would like to express in the hopes of improving the education of all the children in my school district and beyond. Furthermore, I believe that my current position as a full-time professor/faculty member has given me valuable insight into the educational process and the challenges of teaching and learning in today's technologically-driven society. Having gone through K-12 in public schools in Texas and attended a state-supported public college (University of Texas at Austin) and professional school (University of Texas at Houston College of Dentistry) has given me abundant exposure to the various levels of the public school system. As I compare with my family and friends in Texas and other states who have children attending public school, I am able to appreciate the regional and state differences in public education and see the need for standardization. For all of these reasons, I strongly believe I would be a good fit on the community education council if given the chance to serve.

**Candidate: David Mark Fullman**

**DBN:** 26Q031

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

Treasurer for the PTA for 4 years SLT 2nd term

### **Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Alex Lee**

**DBN:** 26Q158

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Background**

I WAS A MEMBER OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR D25 FROM 2007-2010. I AM MEMBER OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM AT BAYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SINCE 2010~CURRENT.

### **Personal Statement**

AS A FATHER OF THREE CHILDREN WHO ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL, I ALWAYS WANT TO HELP AND DEVELOP OUR COMMUNITY'S EDUCATION SYSTEM. I'VE ALSO BEEN TRYING TO SHARE MY TALENT AND TIME WITH THE COMMUNITY SO I GOT SOME EXPERIENCES LIKE CEC AND SLT MEMBER. I BELIEVE THAT I CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL WITH THIS POSITION.

**Candidate: Anastasio Politidis**

**DBN:** 26Q159

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I am a well spoken educated man with great communication skills. I was a boy-scout leader for many years and now I coach a basketball team. I have great people skills and love to give back to the community.

**Personal Statement**

I enjoy being involved in my children's education as well as other activities to help them grow into well rounded human beings. I have helped other organizations and charities in my community and my church.

**Candidate: Michelle Fields**

**DBN:** 26Q266

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

Current Treasurer of CEC for District 26, Member of the Queens Bar Association and Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association as well as active volunteer for New York Cares.

**Personal Statement**

Dedicated to being the voice of all public schools parents and an advocate for the necessary resources and services to make our students better students and prepare them to compete globally. I believe that no child in public school should be left behind.

**Candidate: David Yin**

**DBN:** 26Q018; 26Q067

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

MS 67 PTA PS 18 PTA

**Personal Statement**

I would like to be a member of CDEC26 because I care not only my two kids in the public schools in District 26, but also all the children in our community.

**Candidate: Rula Baki****DBN:** 26Q041**IEP/ELL:** N/A**Applicant Background****Personal Statement**

I am grateful for this opportunity to express why I am interested in a position on the CEC. I feel it is incumbent upon all of us as parents to do our part to help in our children's education. I have been taking an active role in my children's school since day one by being involved in all school activities and by taking on positions like VP Membership and presently, the PTA President. But the more involved I get, the more I feel I need to do. Our educational system is in dire need of reform. Our children are paying a big price for decisions our politicians are making that are not in their best interest. I am eager to be a voice that will represent the views of parents like you who want a change. I want to do more to help our children's education improve and I hope I will have that opportunity on the CEC. Thank you!

**Candidate: Pankaj Kapur****DBN:** 26Q191**IEP/ELL:** N/A**Applicant Background**

I participated in various schools activities, currently a CDEC member representing dist.26.I visited schools and help principals to bring quality improvement in schools.

**Personal Statement**

I am very well qualified and well experienced in the field of education and I have active community member and involved in many community events.

**Candidate: Ricky Chan****DBN:** 26Q203**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

I am currently a sitting member on the Community Education Council in School District 26 (CEC26). My CEC26 tenure began in 2010. I've previously served as the CEC26 Treasurer and am currently serving as the CEC26 1st Vice President. I also currently serve as a Co-Recording Secretary on the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Executive Board at 26Q203, The Oakland Gardens School. Regarding community activities, I volunteer as the Head Coach of the St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) 5th Grade Boys Basketball Team.

## **Personal Statement**

I have lived in Queens County practically all of my life and am a product of the NYC public school system. I believe that having personally gone through the NYC public school system, I am in a unique position to weigh in and provide personal insight into the various educational matters faced by the current members of the CEC26. In recent years, the NYCDOE has brought many critical issues to the forefront. These issues include: mayoral control/school governance, common core state standards, school progress reports, fair student funding, teacher evaluations, class size, school nutrition and safety, priorities for capital program expenditures, etc. I believe that I can bring new perspective to these and other equally important issues for open-minded discussions. These discussions will result in an improved experience for all students within the school district and perhaps 'raise the bar' for public education. In closing, I'd like to give my personal commitment to act in a manner that will achieve the mission of the CEC26. I also look forward to working with other community stakeholders with the common goal of making an impact in the education of our children and the quality of the NYC public school system.

**Candidate: Jeannette Veronica Segal**

**DBN:** 26Q067

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

## **Applicant Background**

CEC 26 President , CEC 26 Vice President, PS 98 PTA Vice President, PS 133 Yearbook Chair, PS 98 & MS 67 Fundraising, Douglaston Little Neck Historical Society Treasurer, Douglaston Little Neck Arts Festival Children Art contest chair, Catholic Youth Organization Swim Team coach.

## **Personal Statement**

As a parent of three children and a believer in volunteerism, I have been involved in the schools my children attended and in our district. I have been the President of the Community Education Council District 26 and previously the Vice President. As president I have firsthand knowledge of how important it is to be vigilant in our children education. As a district we have high performing students and involved parents which is the reason for the success of the district however, we are not awarded by the DOE for our high performance. In the years I have been involved I have had forums to bring the Chancellor and other DOE representatives to remind them that we are here and require their assistance with money or programs. It is a constant fight but a necessary fight for all the children in our district.

**Candidate: Lucy Vieco**

**DBN:** 26Q018

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I have been a CDEC member for the last 2 years.

**Personal Statement**

I believe it is important to serve your community and be an involved parent.

**Candidate: Jaya B. Patil**

**DBN:** 26Q173; 26Q216

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

I served in District 25, as a PTA President, District 25 Title I Rep, Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council as a Corresponding Secretary, Community Education Council as a 1st Vice-President and District Leadership Team member for about 5 years. Also helped schools as a Learning Leader.

**Personal Statement**

I like to help children and parents and love to share my experience with my communities.

**Candidate: Jaime Javier Alvarez-Isasi**

**DBN:** 26Q266

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Background**

Volunteering at my son's school for fundraising events and PTA events.

**Personal Statement**

If elected, I want to have transparent curricula for the children's education. I will encourage all parents to participate to participate in their children's schools such as fundraising, kid's events, school trips, etc. More transparency in how fund are used to school improvement and teacher's continuing education. We need better outreach to needy families in how engage them with their children homework's and activities. We need more transparency in the process of selecting principals and assistant principals based on education and experience qualifications. Outreaching bilingual families to help them with

education and mentoring to achieve their kid's goals. Invite small business and corporations to sponsorship opportunities to help to reach families and children goals.