

## Community Education Council – District 27

### Candidates

**Candidate: Cori Blanco**

**DBN:** 27Q137

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Statement**

PTA- Executive Board Member 2005-present SLT- Parent member- 2004- present Girl Scout Parent Volunteer 2005- present

#### **Personal Statement**

I have been an Executive Board member of my child's school PTA for the last 9 years. I have also served as a member of the SLT for 8 years and I enjoy volunteering at local schools during fundraising events. I firmly believe that parents can make a difference if we band together and work towards the goals that will enrich our children's lives.

**Candidate: Gina Marie Davis**

**DBN:** 27Q309

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

#### **Applicant Statement**

I have a child with a IEP and I go to every work shop to learn more

#### **Personal Statement**

I had service on the cec board Queens District 27 . and in my daughter school I'm on the SLT board and the PTA board I'm AMT 309 Q27 school Middle school DCPREP. and I'm AMT school Titel 1 Treasurer

**Candidate: Asia Moyet**

**DBN:** 27Q306

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

#### **Applicant Statement**

**Personal Statement**

MY SON WILL BE VERY HONOR TO GET EXCEPTED TO THIS SCHOOL. THANK YOU

**Candidate: Laura McCall**

**DBN:** 27Q096

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Statement**

I spoke on behalf of the student in district 27 in Queensa to remove a homeless shelter of sex offenders at P.S.Q 124. I'm a member of the Learning Leaders volunteer program which help teachers in the classroom with students who sometimes need one on one assistance with class work.

**Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Alexandria Siler**

**DBN:** 27Q317

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Statement**

I am currently serving and have served on District 27's CEC since 2009. I am the SLT Chairperson at P.S. 317 and have been since 2009. I have served as the PTA Secretary and Treasurer at that school as well. Serving as a Learning Leader from 2008-2011, I have had hands on experience with all children and their respective learning styles. I am currently a NYC Parks Department Natural Area Volunteer Reforestation Steward where I have a responsibility of planting trees, shrubs, and grasses; removing harmful invasive vegetation; caring for street tree beds; and removing debris from our NYC wetlands. I have attended various Community Board and Civic Association meetings throughout our District to learn more about the needs and accomplishments of our communities. With the assistance of NYC Parks Department, I would love for the opportunity to share what I have learned with our school's administrators and parent leaders throughout the District and have students assist in the ecological rebuilding efforts of our communities devastated by Superstorm Sandy. I am positive our students will benefit from these hands on, educational experiences in their academic careers!

**Personal Statement**

I would like to continue to serve on the CEC for District 27 because I find joy and fulfillment in representing, encouraging and empowering the entire parent body that makes up District 27. I believe that, we as parents need to be at the proverbial table when plans are being made regarding the academic future of our children. I would like to continue serving as the voice of parents with respect and tact. I would appreciate the opportunity to arm parents and guardians with the knowledge and tools to

support student achievement. I would like to see our schools and parents be more cohesive and supportive to one another to ensure that our communities do not lose another school to ever-changing criteria and regulations. I believe that we as parents need to be assured that the effects of events such as Superstorm Sandy will be considered regarding our children's academic and social success especially with the new Common Core Standards being applied. I am well prepared and eager to continue to help advocate for you and our children. I encourage anyone reading this to come to the CEC meetings and share with us information that needs to be celebrated, discussed, shared and addressed. That is key to helping the CEC's help you!

**Candidate: Cynthia Rosario Gallegos**

**DBN:** 27Q254

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Statement**

Volunteer for Kindergarden CookShop - helping children learn healthy choices at home and school. Helping in the preparation with the children. Active Parent Association parent - involved in all meeting to be educated on the many opportunities and functions that the school has to offer.

### **Personal Statement**

Before graduating John Adams High School, I was fortunate to be selected to participate in an internship program at PS 108 in Queens. In this role I assisted the teachers in Kindergarden. The experience that I was given was wonderful, and made me continue my studies at York College in Elementary Education. Although, I was offered a job in NY in the corporate world, I was always involved in the many opportunities that our public schools have to offer my children and somehow managed to keep a full-time job and support my children's school with volunteer work anywhere possible. Students need the guidance and motivation to determine their future and only with the help of the school administration and involved parents we can succeed in this task. Most parents, due to language barriers, do not realize what opportunities are available to their children. During the beginning of the year, through many searches that I had to do for my children's education, I was able to find many programs available to students and was able to pass on this information to my non-English speaking parents. We, as parents, can help each other to initiate a better future for our children with the guidance of a good leader and educator at our nearby school.

**Candidate: Joshua H. Hirschman**

**DBN:** 27Q306

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Statement**

For the past 4 years I have been very involved in my sons school - starting as Co-President of the PA, which then led me to take a position on the District Level where I now sit as Co-President of District 27

District President's Council and as Treasurer of the current D27 CEC. I continue to be very involved in my sons school by helping to raise money and get new programs in place to help our students.

### **Personal Statement**

This year District 27 was hit hard because of Sandy, so we couldn't accomplish as much as we had hoped because most of our Council members were affected by this devastating storm. We did our best to make sure business was conducted and I think that says something about the resolve of the current Council. I strongly believe that the new Council can build on this strength and continue to help the parents and students of District 27. I am a strong believer in the term parental involvement. I think it's a key factor in a child's education especially now with Common Core kicking into high gear. For the past 2 years I have sat on the CEC of District 27 and have learned a lot. I'd like to take the knowledge that I gained and apply it to the next 2 years serving on the CEC again. I feel together with other Council members we can help our District grow. I will also make sure our Council continues to work in conjunction with the DPC to try and improve the communication in our District. The flow of communication must improve and I hope we can make that happen. I would like to serve on the 2012-2014 CEC so I can ensure that all of our students get the proper education they so rightfully deserve. Bottom line – It's all about the students!

**Candidate: Kevin Morgan**

**DBN: 27Q042**

**IEP/ELL: IEP**

### **Applicant Statement**

I am currently the PA President of P.S./M.S. 42Q and the 2nd Vice-President on DCP 27. My son has and IEP for additional resources to strengthen his speech skills. As a single father I made it a point to join the Parent Association and volunteer before being elected to Office. As a Core member of the SLT I work diligently with the School Community and the community at large to create opportunities for Parents to be engaged in their children's learning.

### **Personal Statement**

As a single father I am committed to ensuring that Parents have a voice as equal Partners in Education making decisions to improve, enhance and support the new Common Core Learning Curriculum. As an elected Parent Leader on the local level and District level, I support through action, supporting Parents and Children by helping "Parents build their capacity". I believe that "Parent Involvement makes all the difference" and that Children learn better when we are involved and visible.

**Candidate: Tracy A. Catapano-Fox**

**DBN: 27Q207**

**IEP/ELL: IEP**

### **Applicant Statement**

I am the chairperson of the SLT committee for PS/MS 207Q - Rockwood Park School and an active member of the Parent's Association. I am a Learning Leader at the school, assisting children in the 1st grade with reading. I am also very familiar with autism, as my youngest son was diagnosed with autism/PDD at 20 months, but is considered "recovered" and attends regular general education classes. I have worked extensively with my son on speech therapy, ABA therapy and occupational therapy, and am very familiar with the programs available to assist children on the autism spectrum.

### **Personal Statement**

Based upon my experience and background, I believe I will be an asset to the Community Education Council. I have always been a strong advocate as an attorney, but also with children's issues as the mother of two boys in public school. My career as an attorney has always involved public service, first as an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County, and throughout my career in the court system, of which I am the Chief Clerk in Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term. My experience as the mother of a child with autism has made me a strong advocate for children's issues. My son was diagnosed with autism at 20 months and I worked tirelessly with biomedical doctors and special needs teachers to help my son overcome his diagnosis. I have been an active supporter of Autism Speaks, volunteering at various events to raise money, and running a marathon every year in my son's honor and for Autism Speaks. I would be an excellent addition to the CEC, as I have devoted myself to volunteering in my sons' public school as a Learning Leader and as the co-chair of the SLT Committee. I believe it is incredibly important to use my skills and talents to give back to the community, and I hope that I am selected to the CEC.

**Candidate: Geanie Amanda Carmona**

**DBN: 27Q106**

**IEP/ELL: N/A**

### **Applicant Statement**

I am familiar with a non-profit organization called NyCore (New York Collective of Radical Educators). I have a few friends associated with this group. Through attending some of their meetings and workshops in the past, I was able to get a better understanding of what the public educational system is up against. I have attended a few parent association meetings as well. I currently volunteer at P.S. 3 in Brooklyn, tutoring 3rd grade students one-on-one to help prepare for the New York State test.

### **Personal Statement**

Since I was young, my mother and father have always expressed to my sister, brother and I the importance of education. My father would always instill in us that without education, we would not get very far in life. My mother passed away before she was able to see us all graduate from high school and move on to the exploration of life and what it had to offer. I have graduated with my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts in June of 2012. I currently attend Brooklyn College, majoring in Early Childhood Education, with a concentration in Arts. I thank both of my parents for their continuous support, their tough love and guidance. I now pass my parents educational traditions down to my own two children and anyone else who needs my assistance which I gratefully accept! We can all learn from one another because everyone has something to offer. If families in communities would work together, things would

be much easier. As a Community Education Council, I offer my personal experiences, my knowledge, my understanding, my parental support, and my delight in conquering a challenge in the educational spectrum that needs the most help I can give. Thank you for this opportunity.

**Candidate: Evah King**

**DBN:** 27Q333

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Statement**

As a parent, I participate in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings at the Goldie Maple Academy, where my son is a student. PTA meetings are held on a monthly basis and I have been a participant for the past few years. As a participant, I have the opportunity of not only voicing my opinions, but advocating for a safer school where students can thrive academically and socially in a healthy and non-violent environment.

### **Personal Statement**

I am currently an employed parent who works in the health field for almost four years. I am a graduate of Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York where I pursued a B.S. in Public Administration, and an A.S. in Business Administration. Outside of my work duties, I have a deep interest in shaping characters for the better - especially in children. This is based on the premises that "children are our future" and "it takes a village to raise a child". I have exercised this passion unofficially in various avenues like church, school grounds, and on the spur of the moment. I have a vision for safer schools not only in my community, but city-wide. My goal is help put policies in place that will positively impact our children so that they can reach their full potentials. They will become holistically strong men and women who will be great contributors to the good of our society.

**Candidate: Laurence Bernard Gray**

**DBN:** 27Q114

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Statement**

PTA - past safety committee. Presently middle school liaison. Active Learning Leader Past member of local voluntary civic group (GrayBeards Ltd.) CCD(k-8 faith formation) and RCIA (adult faith formation) catechist at St Francis DeSales RC Church

### **Personal Statement**

District 27 is made up of a very diverse population. The children in this district have diverse needs and problems as well as having a great many strengths and talents that are societies responsibility to nurture Our children, and they are all our children in the sense that they are our future are morally, ethically and

legally entitled to an education that is equitable and appropriate. They are entitled to fulfill their "individual" needs where they will experience success, happiness and a sense worth in a safe and supportive environment. I see a number of issues, problems and inequities that are preventing this. As a parent, a citizen and a human being I would very much want to be involved in the process of examining the needs and problems, helping to find the remedies and to help develop a much more "collaborative" process within our district that serves not one group of children but all the children within our district. With this in mind I hope that you will accept my request to be nominated to the CEC.

**Candidate: Sebastian Fernandez**

**DBN:** 27Q063

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Statement**

My involvement in the community has been with sports. I have coached children with different skill sets. I found that to achieve the best results the children need to be taught based on their skill set. Some children needed to be challenged, some needed to be developed and other needed to be told, you can do this. A fun and personal learning experience goes a very long way. If a child believes they can do it and someone is encouraging them they can do it, there is no limit to what he or she can do.

### **Personal Statement**

**Candidate: Michael Duvalle**

**DBN:** 27Q062

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

### **Applicant Statement**

Present: PTA President Former CEC: 2008-10 school year South Ozone Park Civic Association 1996-present

### **Personal Statement**

Our children deserve the best education. We need to provide a rich, safe and caring environment for ALL the kids, including the rights of parents to choose which school they would like their kids to attend.

**Candidate: Raymond W. McNamara, Sr.**

**DBN:** 27Q210

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

## **Applicant Statement**

I am currently a member of CEC27. I also do volunteer work with many other organizations. I am the Executive Officer of the Independent Marine Cadet Corps, a community youth group. We teach our kids discipline, pride and integrity. I am Quartermaster for the Northeast 9/11 Memorial foundation, working to help Police, Fire, EMS and Military personnel. I have provided security and assistance, along with my cadets, for the Howard Beach Relay for Life since it was started in 2009. I am also a member of "The Feal Good Foundation" helping all 9/11 first responders with anything they need and aiding in Hurricane Sandy relief in the Rockaways.

## **Personal Statement**

I believe if you run for an office, you MUST be prepared to do whatever it takes to fulfill your duties. I am the only sitting member of the council with a PERFECT attendance record for all meetings and events. We won the fight against middle school choice in our district and did a wonderful clothing and supply drive to help out the schools affected by Hurricane Sandy. We have gotten a lot of good things done in the last 2 years, but there is much more to do in the future. I am asking for your vote so I can continue to work with the council to get our district where it needs to be. I am looking forward to representing OUR kids for another 2 years, and maybe longer.

**Candidate: Janice M. Wilson**

**DBN: 27Q207**

**IEP/ELL: IEP**

## **Applicant Statement**

I am currently serving on the CEC Dist 27. I recently had two separate IEP meetings for my special needs children. I was able to work with their educators and secure the services that they will need to succeed in school. I have been a learning leader for 4 years. I volunteered with numerous civic associations after Hurricane Sandy to help all the displaced families and students. Even while my own school was closed and my children displaced. I was co chair of the South Queens CHADD chapter. My oldest child has ADHD My daughter and I are members of the Kiwanis club. I volunteer regularly at my church and another outreach program which helps impoverished teens.

## **Personal Statement**

I am a dedicated single mom of three children, all of whom attend ps/ms 207 in Queens.. I am finishing my first term serving as council member for district 27, and I really enjoy helping people, especially families with children who need help. Sometimes they don't know they need help. I believe the saying " It takes a village to raise a child", after dealing with destruction Sandy, it couldn't ring more true. Because I have two children who are special needs, I have become quite versed in the whole IEP process. I am no stranger to adversity and I think that we as parents need to teach our children how to deal with the many challenges they face daily. In order to do that we need to pull our experiences and resources together. WE all should have one common goal; in that our children grow and learn in a safe, nurturing environment. Our children should feel safe in school. they should feel respected, as well. We are not just parents, we are educators, and they learn from us much more than what is taught in text



books. Teaching my children how to embrace the differences in others is a realistic life skill that is on my syllabus every day. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all.

**Candidate: Sherry Nazima Algreto**

**DBN:** 27Q062

**IEP/ELL:** IEP

**Applicant Background**

I attend regular PTA meetings and other meetings at my daughter's school. My son is in Special Ed and I would like to be involved since I have noticed where the systems needs improvements on and what works well for my kids.

**Personal Statement**

I want to be an advocate for my children and as well for others parents to make sure that our views are represented appropriately. I feel that my input could be a positive contribution which would benefit our kids.

**Candidate: Sahera Bano**

**DBN:** 27Q090

**IEP/ELL:** N/A

**Applicant Statement**

learning learder in PS90 HELPING KIDS WHO NEEDS HELP ON ONE TO ONE BASIS IN ENGLISH AND MATH

**Personal Statement**

I WANT TO BE PART OF CHILD EDUCATION AND DECISIONS MADE TOWARDS THE EDUCATION.