

Community Education Council – District 31

Candidates

Candidate: Michael Reilly

DBN: 31R007; 31R055

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently serve as an elected parent member of NYC Community Education Council 31 Co-Chair P.S. 55 School Leadership Team YMCA Youth Baseball League - Director/Manager (volunteer).

Personal Statement

I am seeking your support to continue as an elected parent member of Community Education Council, District 31 (CEC 31). I have served as an elected parent member since 2009. I am in my second term serving as CEC 31 Recording Secretary and Co-Chair of the Transportation & Safety Committee. CEC 31 has developed a strong working relationship with our Staten Island elected officials, the Department of Education, Office of Pupil Transportation, District 31 Administrators, the NYC Police Department, the NYC Department of Transportation, the NYC Transit Authority and private yellow bus companies. During my time as Co-Chairman, the Transportation & Safety Committee has successfully advocated for the restoration of school bus service, coordinated Stop & Drop procedures to improve traffic & safety near our schools, and enhanced safety in our school buildings. It would be a privilege to continue as an elected parent member of CEC 31, representing Staten Island District 31 parents and students. Sincerely, Michael Reilly

Candidate: John Kubinski

DBN: 31R004

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have been a volunteer reader at PS4. I have assisted my wife (who is a member of the PTA) in various fund-raising activities for PS4. I am the co-founder of a community based action group (The Middle Class Action Project) that raises awareness of issues and takes action to assist members of our community. I am a member of the Staten Island Democratic Committee.

Personal Statement

As a parent that is committed to my children, and my neighbors children, I would be eager to participate in any process that would benefit our kids learning experience. I would work diligently and responsibly to improve the education of our children.

Candidate: Laura Timoney

DBN: 31R002

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have served on the PTA of PS 52, IS 2 and Lavelle Prep Charter School. I have served on the SLT for PS 52 and IS 2. I am a certified Learning Leader. I am currently a member of CEC 31 on Staten Island. I have worked closely with the schools my children have attended in both general education and special education areas. My knowledge of special education comes from years of working with my daughter, her teachers, the school administration and other parents to get the best education possible for our children. I have been a parent advocate at IEP meetings and impartial hearings. I have a pretty sound understanding of Chancellor's Regulations and Special Education services.

Personal Statement

I am the proud mother of two wonderful children. My daughter has Asperger's and ADHD but more importantly she is a smart, witty, beautiful teenager. My son attends an intermediate school and is a smart, hard-working young man with strong ethics and values. Importantly, I advocate for all children and understand our education system is broken and needs to be improved. Parents should have the strongest voice in education, and we barely have a whisper. My children have attended both DOE schools and a Charter school. This experience has given me an understanding as to how charter schools really work. This year, I have had the pleasure of working with some amazing, dedicated parents on the CEC and school PTA's. I consider myself a team player and approach all situations with common sense and mutual respect. We need to all work together for our children, and I have the utmost respect for teachers. Working together we can accomplish a great deal. I have enjoyed my short time on the CEC and there is much more to be done to change the education system in this Mayoral election year. I hope to have the opportunity to continue with the CEC.

Candidate: Frank Squicciarini

DBN: 31R024; 31R050

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

As a member of the Community Education Council of District 31 since July 1, 2007, I have worked on many projects benefiting Staten Island schools. These projects range from helping restore yellow school

buses, and obtaining better school bus service, to helping resolve PCB issues at schools, to acting as CEC 31's liaison to the Metropolitan Transit Authority. This has given me the ability to negotiate adjustment of MTA bus schedules that are more conducive to arrival and dismissal times at schools throughout Staten Island. I currently co-chair the CEC 31 Transportation & Safety Committee and the Zoning/Construction Committee. Children's safety while at school and traveling to-and-from school are paramount issues for me. I co-wrote the last two CEC resolutions concerning school safety issues on Staten Island and citywide. In addition, I have been working to persuade DOE to allow students to bring their cell phones into school, as long as they are kept inside their bookbags. I believe this would enable students to retain their cell phones for safety reasons while traveling to-and-from school, if the need arises. Another priority for me is alleviating school overcrowding and reducing class size in our borough.

Personal Statement

I feel that I would continue to be an asset to the Community Education Council, as well as to the parents of Staten Island and District 31. As a retired police Sergeant from the NYPD (see resume below), I feel that I can continue to be a successful CEC member. 07/03 to Present Retired From NYPD 04/02 to 07/03 Counter-Terrorism Bureau--C.O. Financial Resources Section: 04/99 to 04/02 Intelligence Division -- C.O., Confidential Projects Unit: 06/96 to 04/99 Office of Deputy Commissioner, Management and Budget-- Operations Coordinator: 12/95 to 06/96 Patrol Services Bureau, 76th Precinct-- Sergeant: Patrol Supervisor 12/95 Promoted to Sergeant: 8/88 to 12/95 OCCB, Narcotics Division / Investigative Support Division / Organized Crime Investigative Division - Detective Investigator. 12/85 to 08/88 Patrol Services Bureau--Police Officer: Patrol duties. 07/85 to 12/85 Police Academy--Recruit EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science-Accounting -- College of Staten Island Associate in Applied Science -Accounting -- Kingsborough Community College

Candidate: Franca Okeiche

DBN: 31R048

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I am currently working as a CEC member representing all students and parents in our community District 31. Over the years I have been strongly involved in advocating for the needs and concerns of our community schools. Special Education is very important to us and on several occasions I have worked closely with other council members on issues that concerns special need Student/Parent to achieve results. We recently wrote Resolution 76 advocating for school security to be enhanced. I have also been involved in fighting for schools in our community that were facing closure by DOE. As a chair person for Parent Involvement/Multi-cultural activities in our schools, my job is to promote active parent involvement and encourage strong multi-cultural relationships in our school which encourages diversity. As a Parent Leader with Head Start for 6 years I worked and train parents especially English Language Learner.

Candidate: Allan Katz

DBN: 31R003

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am very active in the local Staten Island community. I do quite a bit of volunteering for various charities and am a local business owner. As a business owner, I do workshops for PTA's throughout Staten Island and the rest of the City. These are on college financial aid planning and are done in high schools.

Personal Statement

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Candidate: Irene L. Maiello

DBN: 31R030

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am currently a Learning Leader at P.S.30 participating in the 4th grade "Book Talk". I regularly volunteer at the school for various events and activities.

Personal Statement

I make it my job to be involved in my children's education, school and fighting for their rights regarding their services. There is no better advocate than a parent who knows their children's rights and won't back down.

Candidate: Lillante Remy

DBN: 31R018

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I currently hold an MBA degree however, I have a Public Affairs Bachelor's from Baruch College. I studied and have always had an interest in education particular in urban and special needs education. I'm very active in my son's school. I go and visit and speak with his teachers, office staff and Mr. Rodriguez, the School Principal on a weekly basis. His teachers provide me with the curriculum and I reinforce the program at home. I am known by name and they know I'm always just a phone call away.

Personal Statement

I would like to serve on the CEC because I am a dedicated parent who believes in Public School Education and that our children's and school's success is a direct result of parent/community involvement. I believe strongly in the power of engaged, informed and united parents, teachers, and community members to make shared decisions about their schools and communities. It takes a village to successfully teach and raise a child. The CEC is one of the few places where I, a parent can have a voice in New York City public school education and engage other parents and Chancellor in conversations as to how best to bring quality education and necessary resources to all of our children. I have been and will continue to be an effective advocate in serving our children.

Candidate: Sam Pirozzolo

DBN: 31R027; 31R069

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have served as the President of Staten Island's Community Education Council for almost six years. During my time on the council I/we have successfully advocated for the creation of the Middle School Scholars Program and a pilot program for dyslexic students which I/we are advocating to expand across all of Staten Island. Along with the other members of CEC 31 and elected officials I advocated strongly and was successful in implementing the return of school busing for 7th and 8th graders. I was/am also a plaintiff in a recent lawsuit which prevented NY State and the NYC Department of Education from taking an additional \$250 million dollars from our schools budgets simply because the DoE and the UFT could not reach an agreement. I have personally advocated for parents of special education children, gifted and talented children and general education children. I have given testimony before government committees and I have lobbied elected officials on behalf of our children. I have been and always will be a strong advocate for all children. I have a working relationship the Department of Education, United Federation of Teachers and our elected officials. I would ask that you please re-elect me to the Education Council. There is a lot of work to accomplish to protect our children's education. The implementation of the Common Core Standards has been handled very poorly. Teacher evaluations are not being looked upon for the best interests of our children. Mayoral Control has proven to be a failure and I am advocating strongly to change current laws and take away Mayor Bloomberg's stranglehold on our children's education. I believe that parents should be considered equal partners along with the DoE and the UFT and we should have a equal say in issues that matter to our children's education.

Personal Statement

During my time on the council I/we have successfully advocated for the creation of the Middle School Scholars Program and a pilot program for dyslexic students which I/we are advocating to expand across all of Staten Island. Along with the other members of CEC 31 and elected officials I advocated strongly and was successful in implementing the return of school busing for 7th and 8th graders. I was/am also a plaintiff in a recent lawsuit which prevented NY State and the NYC Department of Education from taking an additional \$250 million dollars from our schools budgets simply because the DoE and the UFT could not reach an agreement. I have personally advocated for parents of special education children, gifted and talented children and general education children. I have given testimony before government committees and I have lobbied elected officials on behalf of our children. I have been and always will be a strong advocate for all children. I have a working relationship the Department of Education, United Federation of Teachers and our elected officials. I would ask that you please re-elect me to the Education Council. There is a lot of work to accomplish to protect our children's education. The implementation of the Common Core Standards has been handled very poorly. Teacher evaluations are not being looked upon for the best interests of our children. Mayoral Control has proven to be a failure and I am advocating strongly to change current laws and take away Mayor Bloomberg's stranglehold on our children's education. I believe that parents should be considered equal partners along with the DoE and the UFT and we should have a equal say in issues that matter to our children's education. Thank you for your consideration, Sam Pirozzolo

Candidate: Steven Beck

DBN: 31R034

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

CEC 31 member

Personal Statement

I have enjoyed being a part of district 31. As a parent volunteer, i am one of hundreds that support our schools, students, and teachers. With so many parents helping out, i am proud to say that CEC D 31 "gets things done". I hope to be elected again. Helping as many students/ parents is my goal.

Candidate: La Tonja McMillan

DBN: 31R031

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

As a parent, I am President of PTA, member of the School Leadership Team , and a Very involve Parent through Literacy Inc. As a professional in community, I work closely with District 75 in Staten Island to

identify students who are transitioning from High school to Adult Services whether through working in the community or through volunteering in the community. I work with individuals with intellectual disabilities and assist in making quality programs so that high school age individuals can become self sufficient.

Personal Statement

I want every student regardless of where they are educationally to have a clear understanding of common core and assist families in understanding the common core standards so that our children will be more successful expanding their knowledge base. whether in language arts, literacy, science, or math. We are the largest educational system in the country therefore, our children should be given the opportunity to have the proper tools to learn different methods in order to achieve. I also believe that we as parents will have to do more to make sure that our children are learning everything possible to be confident in their studies and their abilities to be successful whether they are in general education or had an intellectual disability. We as parents want to encourage our children to aim for the sky because possibilities are endless as long as the aim for success is strong and everlasting.

Candidate: Tracey Armstrong

DBN: 31R006

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I used to serve on the PTA about 6 years ago. I had to work full time and had no time for the PTA any longer. I have since retired and have more free time so I have decided to get more involved with my children's schools.

Personal Statement

I have heard about this team for awhile now. I have always wanted to volunteer my time to this team but until recently have not had the time. I am a single mom who worked full time. I had no free time to donate to school functions. Due to some health issues, I have gone into early retirement, Now I have much more free time. I would like to use some of that time helping the school system of the city of New York. I am a firm believer in education. I feel that EVERY child in NYC, no matter what race, religion or financial status, has the right to a good education. I greatly appreciate your attention to my application and hope to speak to work in this endeavor together.

Candidate: Anthony Montalbano

DBN: 31R069

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Monique Sophia Hall

DBN: 31R061

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I strongly believe in education, and having teachers that love to help a child and not just worry about the pay check. Having 2 children in the NYC public schools is a challenge when you do not support the teacher when it comes to your child, I have an open door policy with my childrens teacher, i tell them I need teachers not babysitters so we must work together. I would like to be the voice for some of these children that do not have parents that care about their education and help them be more aware and start caring. Our children are our future, we need to train up a child and speak positive in there lives so they can lead the world that we are leaving behind for them.

Candidate: Evelyn Cardona

DBN: 31R021; 31R051

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Petrice Leben-Martin

DBN: 31R069

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Many things may seem important in the present, but one of the few things that holds true and never disappoints, is an excellent transcript. Set individual goals for each step you take, and be your own competition. There is no pressure to decide on a career path at elementary, middle or even high school, but you should make each baby step count.

Candidate: Maysoun Sharief Abdelqader

DBN: 31R014; 31R049

IEP/ELL: ELL

Applicant Background

In Accurate P.S 14 School Data due to Retarded Management. I have the proof. Infested Environment inside P.S. 14; Because soap are Forbidden to be used in the LUNCH ROOM and students Bathrooms, since years ago. But there are Signs Instead of Soap, reminding the students NOT to Forget washig their hands!!! With what??? Dirty look for the garbage spot, equal a School TITLE. Many parents of P.S. 14 are usig drugs, same like the Stapleton community. I noticed a student in 5th grade, escaping from P.S. 14, and in contact with drug distributor. I believe the Weird Go Math has a Suppressing effects on students. There are more students in another school usig drugs. I can guide you for them.

Personal Statement

Save P.S. 14 From It's Management.

Candidate: Peter John Calandrella

DBN: 31R008; 31R080

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

It has been my honor and priviledge to serve as a Member of CEC 31 for over 7 years now and I look forward to continue serving the children & families of District 31. I am a married father of 4 children, 3 of which are already in the public school system and 1 who will be entering shortly. Born and raised in Brooklyn I came to Staten Island over almost 20 years ago and I have made this my home. I attended public school from K through my graduation from High School. I attended college and law school and I proudly served as an Assistant District Attorney and spent many of my years assigned to the Special Victims Bureau. I continue to practice law in private practice. Throughout the past 8 years that I have been involved as an advocate in the public education system as a CEC member I have served on SLT teams, attended numerous PTA meetings, traveled to numerous District 31 Schools, attended meetings and testified before the PEP panel and the NYC Council on many topics such as restoration of yellow school bus service to District 31 students, changes to the Chancellors disciplinary code, use of cell phones in our schools, and school safety. My advocacy work has involved meetings with our elected public officials.

Personal Statement

As a member of CEC 31 I have had the honor and priviledge to serve as an advocate on behalf of the children and all of those in District 31. I am the married father of 4. As a product of the NYC public school system I was afforded an excellent quality education. I proudly served as an Assistant District Attorney. As a CEC member I have been involved in a mixture of trying to make changes to our

education system in general and also working on issues which have arisen. I am proud of the work that I was a part of. The return of yellow bus service, building new schools and many more. There is much more that needs to be accomplished and I ask for your vote so that I can continue to work with the CEC for effective change in the many areas that must be addressed. At this time issues of the common core standards and testing, the current make up of the PEP panel, mayoral control, safely protecting our children while in school, class sizes. By listening to the parents, children and educators we all come up with ideas on how issues should be addressed. Attending PTA meetings, meeting with our educators and other advocates we can all bring about positive changes. I look forward to continuing to be a strong advocate for District 31.

Candidate: Stephanie Locricchio

DBN: 31R042

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am currently on the Parent Advisory Panel and attend PTA meetings. I have attended several CEC meetings and spoke at the school safety meeting following the events in Newtown. I have conducted several free nutrition workshops in local schools. I am scheduled to speak at an upcoming CEC meeting on May 6.

Personal Statement

I am an active and involved parent. My background is in health and nutrition. I would like to get involved with the CEC to elevate the standards for wellness in schools. I am a member of the community, native New Yorker born and raised in Brooklyn. I now live in Eltingville and would like to lend my expertise and passion to the CEC with the hopes of continuing to make improvements and changes in our schools to benefit our children.

Candidate: Jacqueline Srebrenick

DBN: 31R044

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

My name is Jacqueline Srebrenick, and I am applying to be part of the CEC because I want to make a difference in the lives of children's education. My devotion began when my son was in pre-school. He attended a Port Richmond Day Nursery. They had a parent board where I became the chairperson. I also participated on the DAPC level for Staten Island Mental Health Society where I was nominated as the area rep for all 4 Head Starts sites on Staten Island. I continued my work by participating on the NYC Head Start Policy Council at ACS where I served on the Executive Board as their Personnel Practice

Chairperson. I have had the opportunity to learn so much on how the federal government grant helps the 19,311 children it serves. As Personnel Chair it has given me the opportunity to sit on the interviewing process of ACS hires for the agency. I've gained valuable skills on how to listen to individuals and help select people that will affect the education of the children in the programs. I wanted to be more involved so when my son started at Thomas C Brown, I joined the PS 44's PTA. I now serve as the President and this has given me a whole new understanding of the school system and how parents can make a difference in our school.

Candidate: Fredia Vernell McGrew

DBN: 31R061

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was on a volunteer parent committee at P.S.31R. This particular committee helped the teachers and students with their plays in school. We also help the students study their scripts for the play as well. Also we helped with making props and the scenery for the plays too. However, I also was the parent of my sons 4th grade class back in 1998. Which allowed me to take several school trips. I was an active PTA President at P.S.31R from 1999-2000. Until my son graduated and moved on to intermediate school. I have been fully active parent in my children's life, schools and our community.

Personal Statement

I am a License Therapeutic Foster Parent since 2001. Through foster care I have adopted a child in 2010. Which he does have an I.E.P, that classifies him as emotional disturb, However, he is in special education classes. I have been fully involved in his education, since the age of 4. Which now he is 13yrs old and in the 8th grade at I.S.61. Even after my adoption I still continue to do Foster care. I have 3 other children in my home, in special education as well. Two out of 3 of the children go district 75 schools. Which I am totally involve in there schools. I meet once month with their therapist at school. To make sure that they are still getting the education possible and their needs are being meet.

Candidate: Andre Harrison

DBN: 31R035

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I believe unity between professional educators and parents are vital to the success of student's academic achievements.