

District 75 Council Candidates

Candidate: Valerie Victoria Williams

DBN: 75M094

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am affiliated with P94M and the entire 220 autistic children that I have had contact with over the last two years as the PTA President. Principal Ronnie Schuster of P94M - asked me to be Principal two years ago and I have had the pleasure of assisting in the development educational curriculum, as well as help with the assistance of end of year commencements.

Personal Statement

I am a single mother of an Autistic child. I was born and raised here in New York City and I graduated Beach Channel High School at the age of 16. I come from a two-parent home, where both my parents knew that Education would take anyone from poor circumstances to better circumstances and I pass those values on to my child and all of the other children that I come in contact with. I come from a mixed heritage of African-American and Latino - therefore I understand the importance of education and the use of the most advanced technology in order to carry our children to the best level (not only the next level). I have a MBA in Entertainment Business, as well as a MA in African Studies. I have presided as the Parent Association President for P94M over the last 2 years (consecutively).

Candidate: Rebecca E. Green

DBN: 75K372

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a former board member of Families First Brooklyn, an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families.

Personal Statement

Becoming a member of the District 75 Council is important to me because of the educational journey am taking with my child. I would like the opportunity to have a personal impact on the quality of my son's education, and to help other families do the same.

Candidate: Diamaris Magarin

DBN: 75Q075

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am currently a member of the Citywide District 75 Community Education Council. I have a child in a District 75 special education program. I have been an advocate for my child since he was a baby. I've helped other parents be advocates for their children as well. I have had to work hard to get my child what he needs to reach his maximum potential. It is a long journey but not an impossible one as long as everyone is willing to work together and reach an agreement as to what is in the child's best interest.

Personal Statement

I am an involved parent of a special needs child who is in a District 75 school. I have always been an advocate for my child and have helped other parents to advocate for their children. I am currently serving on the Citywide District 75 Community Education Council and am looking forward to the opportunity to serve another term. I joined the council in order to try to make a difference for the District 75 students, and in an effort to make myself available to parents who may need assistance in navigating the system to help their children obtain the best possible education. I look forward to working with the council, the parents and D75 in an effort to get all of the D75 students to reach their maximum potential.

Candidate: Wanda Scott

DBN: 75K036

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Cheryl Ocampo

DBN: 75Q993

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am currently employed part time for a nonprofit organization that services families with disabilities in Brooklyn and Queens. I conduct workshop and trainings on Special Education as well as provide community referrals for families. I also voluntarily run a nonprofit organization that services families by autism. I am a Graduate Student majoring in Psychology: Applied Behavior Analysis working towards certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with a focus on working with families affected by autism.

Personal Statement

Having one of your own children diagnosed with a disability changes your whole life. As the mother of three children with my youngest child affected by a disability, I am very familiar with such a change. I have committed my life to helping other families become the best advocate they can be through education and networking.

Candidate: Parnelle Bordes

DBN: 75Q256

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Berangere Jacqueline Pierre-Louis

DBN: 75K231

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

-Currently volunteering in PS 231 PTA. -Current parent member of the PS 231 School Leadership Team - Volunteered as "Leader of Spanish Conversation Round-Table" at the Brooklyn Public Library -Member of the Make the Road NY organization's immigration project and the Coalition for Educational Justice - Currently sitting on the Citywide District 75 Council -Currently volunteering in the Equal Justice Works

project as a Spanish interpreter on behalf of Central American youths held in Immigration detention facilities

Personal Statement

As the parent of a child with Special Needs, a member of the PTA and School Leadership Team, I have a clear understanding of the concerns of parents within our school district. I am also very mindful of what schools need in terms of resources in order to help our children thrive. Serving on a citywide education council will grant me the opportunity to communicate these concerns and help develop and implement concrete solutions that truly benefit our children and help our schools obtain the resources they need to meet our children's needs and improve their performance.

Candidate: Maureen Dantzler

DBN: 75K721

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have been a part of two Community councils one in general education and now in special education. I am more so drawn to the children with special needs because they need a voice more so than most. Sometimes the parents also need a little help understanding the needs and the different things that their child is entitled to.

Personal Statement

Greetings my name is Ms. Maureen as I am known by the teachers and students that I encounter. I have a love for educating parents and children. I feel really good when a child and a parent receive the benefits that they are entitled to. I also enjoy the way a child with special needs can remember my name and make me feel welcome when I walk into their class room. Everyday I fight for the rights of a child is a day that I have been successful and made a change in someone's life.

Candidate: Anthony Alfred Caponera

DBN: 75Q811

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I was elected to the SLT committee serving one term between 2010-2012 at PS32Q. I currently serve on the PTA Executive Board in PS32Q. My other child is a special needs child and attends a district 75 school in Queens.

Personal Statement

Today are extremely trying times for students, teachers and administrators. In addition to fiscal challenges and responsibilities, we are also in the process of implementing the new, common core standards, a nation-wide effort of standardizing curricula in this nation's public schools that will ready our children for higher education and other ventures. Since its adoption, teachers have been acquiring and using the skills and knowledge required to meet these new standards. Our goal would be to support the teachers and principals who are on the front lines of this new endeavor as well as provide support to the administrative functionaries responsible of reviewing the performance of these entities. I have a child with special needs as well as work in the healthcare industry where I have direct contact with this population of individuals, their caretakers and family. Our responsibilities of teaching special needs individuals, whether in academics or activities of daily living, should not be compromised by budgets

Candidate: Jessica Montaquiza

DBN: 75Q811

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

My son entered the District 75 community when he was about 4 years old. He is now 14 years old and has had a great experience with all the schools he has attended. We have had our fair share of busing issues in the past, but it has taught me a few things. I learned that I had to be the voice for my son I also learned that problems don't get fixed on there own. I had to fight hard to get our busing issues resolved and I'm happy to say that I won. It has been over 4 years since I had a problem. Since then my son has been lucky enough to have a good route with great drivers and matrons. Most parents that has a child riding the school bus knows how frustrating bus issues are, especially the first few weeks of school. I fought hard for my son and I would like to help parents with similar issues or any other issues they may have with their child. Chances are I've had the same issues.

Candidate: Shirley Middleton

DBN: 75M138

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

Parent and Teachers Association, Work with varies schools under the guides United Parents Association (back in the 60's) Harlem Domestic Peace Corp organized issues confronting the community (in the mid 60's) Summer Academic Recreational Programs. Academic Summer Tutorial Programs Provide parents with Child Care Assistance and family issues and educational issues inclusive. Foster care mother, provided homes for troubled children in the community.

Personal Statement

I lived in Harlem for seventy four years. I attended elementary and junior high school in Harlem. All of children was reared and attend various schools within the community. One of the educational issues and major concerns of our community is special education (CCSE) and district 75 (D 75 Council) curriculum for our children. The other concern what determines the age of children referred and tested for special education/ district 75 (D75 council) (Children without physical handicap).

Candidate: Gloria Ann Smith

DBN: 75K811

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

over the last 5 years I have been a active parent at 811K. I have been the PA President for the last 5 year, The last two years I have been the Chair of the School Leadership Team, as the President I am also a member of the President Council and the District leadership team. I am currently a Board Member at Elmy's Special Service's, where I serve on the reimbursement committee. I also worked for 25 years in the field, as a Direct Care staff, Assistan Manager, Manger and Director, where I was an advocate for indivuals with special needs who lived in our program.

Personal Statement

I am the mother of a 45 year old daughter with special needs as well as the grandmother of a 19 year old grandson with autism. I have always been her as well as my grandson's advocate. With my knowledge I have tried to empower parents to understand the services that are availabe to their special need children. I would like to continue to bring to the parents of special needs individual the information to be able to navigate this somewhat difficult system. I have served on the D75 council for one and a half years, there is so much work to do. My 25 years working in the system and my 45 years of working with

my daughter with her disability has allowed me to gain much knowledge. The kind of knowledge that I can continue to share with parents.

Candidate: Morgan Feldman

DBN: 75Q721

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have done various jobs in a school environment involving tutoring of a legally blind student and office work. I think the various skills and perspectives that I have acquired gives me a good foundation for the tasks and activities of the Council.

Personal Statement

In my opinion, education is the foundation upon which the course of a person's life is built. I have been heavily involved in my nephew's education all his life. I feel that it is essential that we keep ourselves as informed as possible about our children's educations and put our voices together towards the continual improvement of the educational process. I hope to be able to serve on this Council to do the work needed to improve our children's lives and futures. Thank you for your consideration.

Candidate: Valerie Tia Montoute

DBN: 75396

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have taught at Long Island University as an Adjunct Professor for over four and currently I work with mentally, emotionally disturbed children. I have many years working and developing development plans for children in foster homes as well as working with children with many different diagnosis and developmental issues.

Personal Statement

Teaching in different environments such as universities, offices, and community programs has given me an insight as to the needs of our educational community. Technology has changed the way that we learn and interact with one another, and because of this it is very important that our children are well educated and have a strong foundation so that they can lead us into the future and beyond. Our previous generations are struggling to understand and our current generation has no understanding of

some of the basic needs that will help them succeed and become a productive citizen. The challenge of education and developing those of the younger generation very hard because a new world has formed and is not understood except by those that have mastered it and use it on a regular basis. Many times it is important to understand the challenges that they encounter which are not as well defined as they may have been for past generations. My ability to communicate with many different populations from those with the least education, economically challenged to those that are financial sound and culturally diverse. Grant me the ability to analyze, assess and implement a program that is effective.

Candidate: Sonja Jeanette Edwards

DBN: 75K771

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have worked attended various classes held by the DOH to stay abreast with how to help students with special needs. I work in my community donating time and money to fund PTA meetings and getting information out to parents who have children with disabilities.

Personal Statement

I have dedicated my life to the field of education. I have a degree in education and for awhile taught general education and middle school. I went back to obtain my Master's degree in Special Education. I believe special needs children deserve opportunities that can be afforded to them. Their parents have the right to be supported and informed. As professionals to be vigilant in gaining knowledge and promote LRE standards and protocols.

Candidate: Abel O. Alagbe

DBN: 75Q009

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a parent of student receiving D75 citywide special education services. I have been a member of citywide council on special education, and District 75 council during the past 5 years, and have been in the official capacity of the council as the Recording Secretary, 2nd Vice President and the 1st Vice President for D75 Council and CCSE during the last 4 years. Was also in the school Leadership Team about 6-7 years ago. also engaged in other community outreaches during the last 10 years.

Personal Statement

I as a Dad of a child with learning disabilities/impairments, who is being served by D75 school / services (within the 5 boroughs of New York City), I quickly learnt at the early stage to become an advocate for my child and other children with disabilities so that, I together with other parents and other members on the council can continue to negotiate and secure necessary related services of the best kind that this world can offer to our children, to make them be self dependent now or in the future. I will also be bringing to the Council my Knowledge, Skills and abilities in other area of Community outreaches, management, accounting, financing, scientific, technological, analytical, inspection, safety procedures, regulatory procedures. among others to the Council for the benefit of our day to day activities for the betterment of D75 Students. I hold BS and MS degrees in Fd Science & Technology and MS in Management (Finance & Accounting). During the last Twenty years have worked in various multinational organizations private and governmental.

Candidate: Audrey Dunlap

DBN: 75Q177; 75Q255

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am the parent of two wonderful special needs children ages 9 and 17. On this journey I have learned so much and I will continue to learn. I am a council member of the CCSE. We are all advocates for our children. As parents we must ensure they receive an appropriate education and provide the supports for our children to progress and have happy, meaningful lives. Our children are independent learners. I mean, they have specific learning style and they learn at their own pace. But, they can learn. We must make sure they are given the opportunity to be educated appropriately.

Personal Statement

Being the parent of a child with special needs is not easy. It takes knowledge, dedication, strength and a lot of courage to advocate for our children. Sometimes it won't be easy or fair but, it will always be worth it. 1- Believe in your child, they can learn. Create an environment that will promote and support learning for them and do not accept anything less from anyone else. Secondly, hold educators accountable. Teachers must believe in our children & the importance education. Educators must know what a profound role they have and treat it as such. They must provide individualized curriculum to meet the unique needs of our children. They must raise expectations, train teachers, provide classroom supports, use researched based materials, have a defined curriculum, create SMART IEP goals, monitor progress or lack of it and most of all be held accountable every step of the way. It is a collective effort between Parents and the DOE and both parties must be sincere. Preserving, nurturing and respecting that relationship will only bring progress. It has been a privilege and honor help give a voice to our children and serve on the CCSE. We have so many children counting on us.

Candidate: Celia Green

DBN: 75K368; 75K369

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I have worked as a P.T.A. secretary, treasurer , vice president, financial secretary and president at various times from 1994 with my eldest child entering school until the present. The populations of the schools that my children have attended and also presently attend have afforded me the opportunity to become familiar not only with children like my own who are on the spectrum of autism but those with emotional disruptions and physical disabilities. I have also trained was certified and work as a parent member.

Personal Statement

I am committed to being a part of the solution rather than just complaining about what is lacking in our New York City Public Schools. My belief is that we as parents and guardians can be agents for positive change which will benefit not only our individual children but all students attending New York City Public Schools. I have learned a lot and I am willing to learn more not just for myself but to share with other parents, guardians and staff. I will always fight for the rights of our students to receive a quality education and in doing so will always seek to empower parents with the knowledge to make the best decisions for their children.

Candidate: Gloria Maria Corsino

DBN: 75X723

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

PTA President D75 Council member D75 Council Secretary

Personal Statement

I HAVE BEEN A COMMITTED PARENT AND ADVOCATE FOR MY CHILDREN SINCE THEIR DIAGNOSIS. I AM LEARNING EVERYDAY MORE AND MORE DESPITE ALL OF MY EXPERIENCE SO FAR. I ADVOCATE NOT ONLY FOR MY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION BUT A FAIR EDUCATION FOR ALL AND ANY D75 STUDENT. WHAT AFFECTS ONE, AFFECTS US ALL.

Candidate: Sherry Nazima Algreto

DBN: 75Q009

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: Cynthia Bonano

DBN: 75M169

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

cec district 1

Personal Statement

I'm on the cec now and i'm would like to reregister and stand in and represent the parents n the needs of the children.