



CEC 20 Candidate Brochure

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
ADALGISA NEVES	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K936	NO	NO	
ADRIENNE TEMPERINO	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K682	NO	NO	I believe that I am a fair person . Someone who is open to different perspectives. I have served on the PTO , as class mom many times and supported my schools in many different ways. I am willing to have the hard conversations in order to serve our children in the best way possible. I currently am a firm believer in bringing emotional intelligence work into our school system and am certified to do just that.
ADRIENNE TEMPERINO	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	21K239	NO	NO	I believe that I am a fair person . Someone who is open to different perspectives. I have served on the PTO , as class mom many times and supported my schools in many different ways. I am willing to have the hard conversations in order to serve our children in the best way possible. I currently am a firm believer in bringing emotional intelligence work into our school system and am certified to do just that.
AMIN GHADA	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K102	NO	NO	I am a mother and a guardian of two children. I was honored to participate as a member of the Immigrant Parents Committee in district 20 till now. I hope to participate as a member of Education Council elections to clarify the vision of immigrant parents and convey a vivid picture of their problems and the obstacles that are facing them and help solve them and be a channel of communication where language and culture stand in the way. Impenetrable among my community and educational bodies.
ARTUR KAVALIYOU	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K200	NO	YES	
AUREL KASTRATI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K200	NO	NO	
DAN TONG QIU	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K176	YES	NO	
DIXON CHEUNG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K227	NO	YES	
DIXON CHEUNG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K971	NO	NO	
DRAGALINA PAKIN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K170	NO	NO	Hello, My name is Dragalina Pakin and I'm currently a PTA president and SLT member at PS 170 Ralph Fabrizio. I really like to give back to my community and help out our district school. I started first as volunteer and now it's been my second year as a PTA president. We organized before the pandemic lots of fundraising and sponsored many activities for the school. Currently my children attend PS 170 in 3rd grade, 2nd grade and Kindergarten. Thank you!
EDUARDO RIOS	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K200	NO	NO	I believe my unique ability to problem solve and and my unparalleled leadership skills make me the ideal candidate to move the education department forward.

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ELIZABETH CHAN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K205	NO	NO	Today I am angry and frustrated that my son was unknowingly taken out of in person learning. To see the look of disappointment and hurt on his face and other students that waited out in the cold for more than half hour made me realize that the system has to change. I have children in an elementary school that functions so smoothly and works so hard with the family, and than I see the disorganization in my son's middle school. I feel like every student has the right to a functioning school environment that works with the community.
ELIZABETH CHAN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K205	YES	NO	Today I am angry and frustrated that my son was unknowingly taken out of in person learning. To see the look of disappointment and hurt on his face and other students that waited out in the cold for more than half hour made me realize that the system has to change. I have children in an elementary school that functions so smoothly and works so hard with the family, and than I see the disorganization in my son's middle school. I feel like every student has the right to a functioning school environment that works with the community.
ELIZABETH CHAN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K227	NO	NO	Today I am angry and frustrated that my son was unknowingly taken out of in person learning. To see the look of disappointment and hurt on his face and other students that waited out in the cold for more than half hour made me realize that the system has to change. I have children in an elementary school that functions so smoothly and works so hard with the family, and than I see the disorganization in my son's middle school. I feel like every student has the right to a functioning school environment that works with the community.
GIUSEPPINA SCOLARO	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K204	NO	NO	
HALED MUHAMED	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K062	NO	NO	
HALED MUHAMED	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	22K217	NO	NO	

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HEIMAN CHAN-SARANTOPOULOS	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K104	NO	NO	My name is Heidi Chan-Sarantopoulos. I'm the mother of a second grader attending a District 20 School. I also attended two District 20 Schools, Dyker Heights IS201 and FDR High School. I'm a native New Yorker and a proud product of the NY Public School System having attended from K-12. As the daughter of Chinese Immigrants, I was in ESL (ELL) until 5th Grade. I have seen firsthand the hard work my teachers put into helping me and I felt the struggle of trying to catch up to my classmates. Providing a quality education is so important for the future of our children. It doesn't guarantee success but it'd be harder to achieve without it. I currently volunteer for a trade association on their conference committee. I am also a board member of the Greek School of Plato where I also serve as the treasurer. Through this role, I get to see the collaborative efforts it takes for board members and educators to provide meaningful curriculums and programs to the school children. As a CFO, I have experience budgeting, public speaking, problem-solving and other areas of expertise. I also have knowledge of programming and technology from my college education. I am a focused person that is willing to do the hard work to make education accessible and work for all students in District 20. The current school year 2020-2021 has been very challenging for students, parents, and teachers alike. Our students deserve better from leadership. I want to advocate for all students and parents that are being underserved by the school system, including IEP and ELL Students. I also believe strongly in preserving the G & T Program instead of dismantling it as is being done by misguided bureaucrats. Judging from my own experience there is no one size fits all for education. I don't have all the answers but I know that through improved communication and new ideas, we will accomplish much better things for our children.
HELEN CARAMES	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K205	NO	NO	It is my hope that by taking a seat on the council I would be able to improve education for all the children in the city, and improve the relationship between the BoE and the average parent.
HELEN CARAMES	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K205	YES	NO	It is my hope that by taking a seat on the council I would be able to improve education for all the children in the city, and improve the relationship between the BoE and the average parent.
HOLLY ALGARIN GUZMAN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K112	NO	NO	I wish to add my support and ideas not only as a mother of a child who attends school in this district but also as a working parent who can provide insite in the difficulties we all face with our children.

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JACQUELINE BARROSO	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K170	YES	NO	A few years ago my son was diagnosed with being on the spectrum. He is autistic. Autism is not something that is visible to the eye. When I first received the news, I did not know what to expect or think. He was approved for speech and occupational therapy, as well assigned a paraprofessional. Fast Forward to a few years later, my son is very vocal, he can express his emotions and acknowledge the emotions of others. He went from not being able to write his name, to write sentences. He walked into Public School a - A reading level and currently stands at a G level. I have to give credit where its due and that is to his therapists and teachers, who have been so supportive of both of us in troubling times. Having a child, on the spectrum, is a learning experience for both mother and child. I have learned so much throughout these years that I feel ready to share those experiences with other parents. Serve as a support to them and be able to assist educators where needed. Being fluent in English and Spanish, written and oral, can help me to communicate with those who are not fluent in English. As parents, we must remember that we are the voice of our children. We know what is best for them. We also know how hard our teachers are working during this pandemic. It is important for me to serve as an Education Council because I know that like myself there are parents out there who have children with special needs. I want to be that voice for them. I feel passionate enough to want to share and connect with parents out there. Education is the epitome of our children's success. Many parents come from a distance to give them that education they couldn't get back home. I would like to stand alongside the educators, that make it possible for children to receive the best education there is. In summary, I believe if given the opportunity I could serve of a great asset to your team. As a parent and a former student, I know how important it is for parents and teachers to all be on the same page when it comes to a child's education.
JANINE FAUSTNER	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K104	YES	NO	
JENNIFER HU	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K104	NO	NO	Having gone through kindergarten and first grade with my child, and with a second child soon to start public school, I have concerns with the way education is run in the city. After speaking with other parents, I know I am not the only one. I felt helpless to make school and learning better for my kids until I saw this opportunity in my inbox. I would love to be a voice for the parents in my community and to help make public schools more fun, focused on actual learning and education, and less on "teaching to the test" and homework. Doing tons of work does not result in better learning outcomes, especially if the coursework is not age-appropriate or geared to how kids actually learn. I want this position so I can better the situations for myself as well as everyone else in my community.

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Jessica Ramirez-Cabral	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K201	NO	NO	Good Afternoon, My name is Jessica Cabral I am a mother of five children in various age groups ranging from second to tenth grade with two having an IEP. I am currently recording Secretary on the PTA at PS204 and the Corresponding Secretary at New Utrecht H.S. as well as being a part of the Title one Parent committee. I have volunteered with school based support since my oldest was in first grade and I pride myself on being a part of the school system and engaging in the school community. I work well with all personnel in the DOE and have a great working relationship with many people. My hope with applying for this position is to learn while making a difference in some areas of the school system that might need changing. I am able to communicate professionally and keep an open mind with all conversations that may be hand in regards to DOE policy and situations that may arise. I would like to be part of this panel because I have been a part of the DOE for many years and feel this is something that I and the children we service will benefit from. As we all have children in the NYC School system we all want what is best for our children and strive to keep them learning and safe as well as our teachers and staff. As part of your council I will continue to learn about my part as a parent and council member and hope to give great insight on issues or give credit to what needs to be praised as we have embarked on this crazy journey called covid we as a system and a team should always continue to strive to be the best that we can be for ourselves and our children. Thank you for your consideration and time Best regards, Jessica Cabral
Jessica Ramirez-Cabral	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K204	NO	NO	Good Afternoon, My name is Jessica Cabral I am a mother of five children in various age groups ranging from second to tenth grade with two having an IEP. I am currently recording Secretary on the PTA at PS204 and the Corresponding Secretary at New Utrecht H.S. as well as being a part of the Title one Parent committee. I have volunteered with school based support since my oldest was in first grade and I pride myself on being a part of the school system and engaging in the school community. I work well with all personnel in the DOE and have a great working relationship with many people. My hope with applying for this position is to learn while making a difference in some areas of the school system that might need changing. I am able to communicate professionally and keep an open mind with all conversations that may be hand in regards to DOE policy and situations that may arise. I would like to be part of this panel because I have been a part of the DOE for many years and feel this is something that I and the children we service will benefit from. As we all have children in the NYC School system we all want what is best for our children and strive to keep them learning and safe as well as our teachers and staff. As part of your council I will continue to learn about my part as a parent and council member and hope to give great insight on issues or give credit to what needs to be praised as we have embarked on this crazy journey called covid we as a system and a team should always continue to strive to be the best that we can be for ourselves and our children. Thank you for your consideration and time Best regards, Jessica Cabral

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Jessica Ramirez-Cabral	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K204	YES	NO	Good Afternoon, My name is Jessica Cabral I am a mother of five children in various age groups ranging from second to tenth grade with two having an IEP. I am currently recording Secretary on the PTA at PS204 and the Corresponding Secretary at New Utrecht H.S. as well as being a part of the Title one Parent committee. I have volunteered with school based support since my oldest was in first grade and I pride myself on being a part of the school system and engaging in the school community. I work well with all personnel in the DOE and have a great working relationship with many people. My hope with applying for this position is to learn while making a difference in some areas of the school system that might need changing. I am able to communicate professionally and keep an open mind with all conversations that may be hand in regards to DOE policy and situations that may arise. I would like to be part of this panel because I have been a part of the DOE for many years and feel this is something that I and the children we service will benefit from. As we all have children in the NYC School system we all want what is best for our children and strive to keep them learning and safe as well as our teachers and staff. As part of your council I will continue to learn about my part as a parent and council member and hope to give great insight on issues or give credit to what needs to be praised as we have embarked on this crazy journey called covid we as a system and a team should always continue to strive to be the best that we can be for ourselves and our children. Thank you for your consideration and time Best regards, Jessica Cabral
Jessica Ramirez-Cabral	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K445	YES	NO	Good Afternoon, My name is Jessica Cabral I am a mother of five children in various age groups ranging from second to tenth grade with two having an IEP. I am currently recording Secretary on the PTA at PS204 and the Corresponding Secretary at New Utrecht H.S. as well as being a part of the Title one Parent committee. I have volunteered with school based support since my oldest was in first grade and I pride myself on being a part of the school system and engaging in the school community. I work well with all personnel in the DOE and have a great working relationship with many people. My hope with applying for this position is to learn while making a difference in some areas of the school system that might need changing. I am able to communicate professionally and keep an open mind with all conversations that may be hand in regards to DOE policy and situations that may arise. I would like to be part of this panel because I have been a part of the DOE for many years and feel this is something that I and the children we service will benefit from. As we all have children in the NYC School system we all want what is best for our children and strive to keep them learning and safe as well as our teachers and staff. As part of your council I will continue to learn about my part as a parent and council member and hope to give great insight on issues or give credit to what needs to be praised as we have embarked on this crazy journey called covid we as a system and a team should always continue to strive to be the best that we can be for ourselves and our children. Thank you for your consideration and time Best regards, Jessica Cabral

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JIN RONG CHEN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K176	NO	YES	<p>Hello, everyone, My name is Meiyun Lin(Tina),I am a piano teacher engaged in music education. I have two music training centers. I help many IEP students with music education. As everyone knows, music has the ability to heal. With the efforts of my children, The children went from being severely autistic, to daring to sing, and performing confidently in for everyone. I was really touched and very sense of accomplishment. I hope I can be elected to the education council and help more child with IEPs. Children, and try my best to provide services for the school and the community! Thank you</p>
JIN XIU DONG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K170	NO	YES	
JOHN RICOTTONE	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K200	NO	NO	<p>Every child should be presented a fun learning experience. It takes a village to raise a child. We are raising the next President , Vice President ,Police officers ,Doctors ,Teachers . I also believe that if covid test should be conducted out side of schools ,they can set up an area outside of the school so that the children's guardian or family will be present. A six year old child and other children are being pulled out of class by themselves and I truly think it is causing them anxiety.</p>

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JONA ISUFI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K170	YES	NO	I am interested in applying for a seat at the Education Council, as I see it as an opportunity to be more involved in the community. As a mother of two boys, I would like to have a voice in the decisions that affect their school life. My current profession is a chemist, but during my pre-motherhood days, I was very active in leadership and community roles. I have tutored for 5 years, and always valued education as a crucial part of someone's life. As a Resident advisor in college, I used to be very involved not only through fulfilling expectations, but also as mentoring freshmen for an easier transition to college life. I have also worked with school aged children when tutoring in the afternoon at Huntington center. This special year of Covid has made me realize how crucial a "teaching model" is for the children. It has made me appreciate the teacher of my eldest son, and also inspired me to maybe look into education as a possible future turn for my life down the road. When I saw the email from the school, inviting me to look at this opportunity, I saw this as a window to be more involved in the community. Given the fact of being a full-time employee, mother of two boys, 6 and 3, it is hard for me to attend in person events. With limited childcare, I am confined to my apartment, but with technology, I see this as a good possibility to be more involved. As a shy child, I used to rely on the voice of my parents, as an international student, I struggled to let my voice be heard, but as a mother, instinctively the voice became loud when needed. Children are the future, something that we can all agree on, but we all need to pay attention more, we need to provide a caring and loving environment. As Covid showed, we are all equal in the possibility of getting sick, we are all equal in the possibility of being "confined" to a small place, but not everyone has the possibility to be heard. If considered for a position, it would be my pleasure to work to improve and inspire others to learn more, and be an echoing voice. Thank you.
JOSEPH SCOTT	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K185	NO	NO	The freshman representative from Georgia's 14th congressional district, Marjorie Taylor Greene, has been appointed to the House Education and Labor Committee. She has said the Parkland and Newtown mass school shootings never happened, that our last national election was stolen, that 9/11 was a hoax, that President Obama is a Muslim and that space lasers controlled by Jews caused the California wildfires. This woman has inspired me to get involved. If she can be appointed to a NATIONAL education committee, surely I have a chance in my local municipality. I have no prior experience in community service that would make me a strong candidate. But I have been a professional musician my whole life. That means I am successful and know how to run a business. It is the only job I've ever had. I know how to plan and execute working for myself for 35 years. And I know how to improvise. And I know how to handle people - all kinds of people because everybody loves music. I am articulate and friendly. I can also be equal parts diplomatic and candid. And I'm funny. That's it. That's why I think I'd be good at something I know nothing about. I've learned to play several instruments at the professional level. I can learn how to be a good committee member. Vote for me!!
KA KIT KO	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K176	NO	YES	

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KARIMA ELHAKMI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K204	NO	NO	
KARIMA ELHAKMI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K204	YES	NO	
KEZIA HERCULES	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K192	NO	NO	
KEZIA HERCULES	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	84K744	NO	NO	
Kyna Moss	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K062	YES	YES	Having a child in special ed from kindergarten to the six grade has made me see how important being involved in the planning and executing of rules and regulations is over our children's lives. I would like to be active in making decisions and in giving input on what I've observed in my own child's progress, as it may be something that can contribute to helping another child. During this pandemic I have witnessed the psychological and emotional deterioration of my daughter and I've heard it in other kids as well In her class who have shed tears online about coronavirus. I am greatly concerned about the 12 year olds. I have no idea why but there seems to be more 12 year olds affected by feelings of isolation during this pandemic. And I think the schools have to find a safe way for those children who are doing homeschooling to have a class maybe where they have a play session or socialization class if you will. It should be conducted with a facilitator and all children must participate . Addressing some of these issues is my great honor to do if chosen.
LI PING JIANG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K164	NO	YES	
LULY FLORES	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	17K249	NO	NO	
LULY FLORES	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K062	NO	YES	
Mahmut Aydin	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K247	NO	NO	I am interested in this due, our children is very important to us and so is true for everyone. Always the School safety and education is to be the top priority for our community and children. We should do our best to have the best educational programs available for schools in the district 20. We need to be there and understand the current situation and do the best to make education available for all students in the District. I am married with father of 3 children.I was a teacher back home where I came from (TURKIYE_ in English words from TURKEY) My two child attends PS.247 and I know working with the schools in the District will broaden my view in education and I can share my past teaching experience in learning to whom I come across. I will do my best to meet when we do need and raise concerns/ ideas etc and share my view and my community view.

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Mahmut Aydin	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K247	NO	YES	I am interested in this due, our children is very important to us and so is true for everyone. Always the School safety and education is to be the top priority for our community and children. We should do our best to have the best educational programs available for schools in the district 20. We need to be there and understand the current situation and do the best to make education available for all students in the District. I am married with father of 3 children.I was a teacher back home where I came from (TURKIYE_ in English words from TURKEY) My two child attends PS.247 and I know working with the schools in the District will broaden my view in education and I can share my past teaching experience in learning to whom I come across. I will do my best to meet when we do need and raise concerns/ ideas etc and share my view and my community view.
MARIAN FALTAOOS	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K264	YES	NO	I believe the school system is designed in general to people who were born in the country, however, more than 80% of this community are immigrants and new comers. While you can see some attempts to integrate the immigrant families in the system; the work which needs to be done is far beyond those attempts. The new families might need: 1- An extensive orientation program about the education system in general, its goals, objectives, the way it works,...etc 2- What is expected from the child in each educational year; in terms of reading levels, comprehension, writing, math,...etc 3- For IEP students; the parents need even more classes of what to expect, what's being done in the school, how and when they say "NO" for any more services when they deem so. 4- The allocation of the school budget; the families have to have a vote in this budget and they ways the school allocate those resources. 5- Families with special needs; like; non-working parents, single-parents, parent with economic hardships.....etc. How to get the education system more sensible for those cases since kids are experiencing different patterns of life that are different than the mainstream. 6- Ways and forms of how to connect the school with the community outside; the small business, the street vendors, the parks,...etc So I believe I would want to work with you on those suggestions and looking for ways to improve them going forward.
MARINA DOSS	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K186	YES	YES	
MARISELA VEGA HUILTRON	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K176	NO	NO	

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MAUREEN CUDWORTH	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K102	NO	NO	<p>Hello, my name is Maureen Elizabeth Cholewka, and I want to serve on our Community Education Council to make a positive impact on our Public Schools for our children of New York City. I believe every child deserves the best we can give them, and to feel safe, happy and confident while at school each day. I have volunteered at P.S. 102 when I was in high school. I worked with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities for half of my career. I have traveled the world on a scholarship. I have spoken and volunteered at schools throughout my two children's school years. I adopted my son from South Korea when he was 5 months old, and he is now 18 and headed to college with honors. I have many programs in mind to improve in our schools, including diversity, non-bullying, inclusion, school lunch quality, enrichment like Art and Music, incentive programs, teacher trainings, remote learning ideas, communication and health and wellness. I am a New York Native with immigrant grandparents. Thank you! Please elect me, and I will make sure your voice, and your child's, is heard and action taken or begun. My mission is to raise the quality of life for children at school, down to air conditioning and decorations, desk quality and recreation and recess rotations. We also have to make sure each school is safe and secure, with measures put in place to keep each building secure. I will also lobby for budget increases for education and the City's investment in schools as a priority, not an afterthought or a given. I have the time to do this, and the inspiration, and the organization and of course, the energy! Thanks for thinking of me as your NEW option for change in our schools. Vote Maureen for More!</p>

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MAYA ROZENBLAT	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K686	NO	YES	<p>Education is the single most important gift we can give to our kids. I want to ensure all NYC kids are afforded the same educational opportunities. I am running to support CEC focus on rigorous quality programs in every school, offering engaging programs for kids on different academic levels. Providing strong students with challenges, and supporting less advanced students. Additionally, we public schools should build on the experience running bilingual school programs that are successful and popular among the immigrant families. I believe that schools should provide support to families with modest means, offering additional instructional hours, homework preparation, and social emotional support. As an immigrant, I remember the feeling of loneliness, isolation, and confusion, and schools could bring a great value offering support where needed. I believe that one of the largest and richest cities in the world should be providing world-class education, that includes not only core subjects, but also literature, art and music, languages and sports, geography and technology - the same wealth of options that exists in private schools and in the suburbs. I believe that there should be no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to schools, public schools should not be bringing programs to the lowest denominator. All levels of academic abilities and learning styles should be benefitting from public education. Establishing various pilot programs, looking for new ways, using modern research and tools should bring more joy into school days for all the students. About me: I came to NYC with my family from St Petersburg, Russia more than 25 years ago, put myself through college while working full time. I work in IT and project management, currently employed by a healthcare company. Fell in love with New York from the first day I set my foot in JFK, shared highs and lows with the city – including 9/11 when I was working in downtown and came home covered in debris from WTC explosions, financial crises of 2007/08 when I had to go through all my savings before finding a new job – But I want to believe that New York is still standing strong and should be an affordable place to raise and educate our kids. I have been holding various positions in Women Diversity groups in the companies I worked for, am an active participant in my kids school Parent Teacher Organization, am an extremely effective and an organized person. I have been providing mentorship to junior stuff and fellow moms trying to come back to work after the extended maternity leave. I am in love with New York, full of enthusiasm and energy and believe that no task is too small when it comes to public education.</p>

CEC 20 Candidate Brochure

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MAYA ROZENBLAT	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	31R605	NO	NO	<p>Education is the single most important gift we can give to our kids. I want to ensure all NYC kids are afforded the same educational opportunities. I am running to support CEC focus on rigorous quality programs in every school, offering engaging programs for kids on different academic levels. Providing strong students with challenges, and supporting less advanced students. Additionally, we public schools should build on the experience running bilingual school programs that are successful and popular among the immigrant families. I believe that schools should provide support to families with modest means, offering additional instructional hours, homework preparation, and social emotional support. As an immigrant, I remember the feeling of loneliness, isolation, and confusion, and schools could bring a great value offering support where needed. I believe that one of the largest and richest cities in the world should be providing world-class education, that includes not only core subjects, but also literature, art and music, languages and sports, geography and technology - the same wealth of options that exists in private schools and in the suburbs. I believe that there should be no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to schools, public schools should not be bringing programs to the lowest denominator. All levels of academic abilities and learning styles should be benefitting from public education. Establishing various pilot programs, looking for new ways, using modern research and tools should bring more joy into school days for all the students. About me: I came to NYC with my family from St Petersburg, Russia more than 25 years ago, put myself through college while working full time. I work in IT and project management, currently employed by a healthcare company. Fell in love with New York from the first day I set my foot in JFK, shared highs and lows with the city – including 9/11 when I was working in downtown and came home covered in debris from WTC explosions, financial crises of 2007/08 when I had to go through all my savings before finding a new job! But I want to believe that New York is still standing strong and should be an affordable place to raise and educate our kids. I have been holding various positions in Women Diversity groups in the companies I worked for, am an active participant in my kids school Parent Teacher Organization, am an extremely effective and an organized person. I have been providing mentorship to junior stuff and fellow moms trying to come back to work after the extended maternity leave. I am in love with New York, full of enthusiasm and energy and believe that no task is too small when it comes to public education.</p>
MELODY THOMAS	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K062	YES	NO	<p>My name is Melody Thomas and I am an advocate for children. I have worked in education for the past 8 years and have 2 children who have attended NYC public schools for the past 9 years; they are in 8th and 7th grade respectively. I worked as a Program Director at a tutoring center for 4 years and I am currently a Senior Operations Associate at a Brooklyn charter school. Ensuring all children receive a quality education is my passion, especially as the mother of a special needs child. It is my goal to work with my community, teachers, administrators, families, and students to improve student achievement, equity, and access to education.</p>

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MELODY THOMAS	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	22K078	NO	NO	My name is Melody Thomas and I am an advocate for children. I have worked in education for the past 8 years and have 2 children who have attended NYC public schools for the past 9 years; they are in 8th and 7th grade respectively. I worked as a Program Director at a tutoring center for 4 years and I am currently a Senior Operations Associate at a Brooklyn charter school. Ensuring all children receive a quality education is my passion, especially as the mother of a special needs child. It is my goal to work with my community, teachers, administrators, families, and students to improve student achievement, equity, and access to education.
MING ZHEN ZHANG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K227	NO	YES	
MUHAMMAD NOOR	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K160	NO	NO	I have been an activist for social justice and democracy throughout my life. I believe that without quality education the dream of establishing justice and protecting and promoting democracy cannot be materialized. I am the co-founder and volunteer Chief Editor of a not-for-profit online community news organization called Pamir Times, which covers marginalized communities in the northern mountain regions of Pakistan (my place of birth). I moved to the United States in 2017 and worked as a freelance translator and interpreter for several months before finding work as a Case Planner (Preventive). As a Case Planner, I had the unique opportunity of working with families suffering from various issues, including truancy, under-performance in schools and other issues related to the education system. I have tried to help the children by connecting them with services and resources to address some of the issues facing them. In my experience, cultural differences, language barriers, lack of opportunities for socialization, and I am currently working as a Training and Technical Assistance Manager at the Arab-American Family Support Center, which work with immigrants, refugees, and other marginalized groups in all five boroughs of NYC. It is my hope that my diverse work experience, as well as my life experience as a relatively recent immigrant, and native speaker of an endangered language (Wakhi), can be useful in highlighting and addressing issues faced by all the students, including children from the immigrant and refugee families. It is with this conviction that I would like to offer my candidature for the education council. Given the opportunity, I hope to contribute towards the creation of an educated and enlightened community, by becoming a strong and informed voice.
MURRAY SCHWALBAUM	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K104	NO	NO	I am a professional in the Financial Services sector and have had experience in a fast paced regulatory environment. My technical proficiency is in Computer Science, specifically cyber-security. My role is a leadership role, which includes participation in governance processes in my domain. I have two children and two step-children in the school system, and am eager to give back to the system. Engagement in PTA has been challenging for myself when in-person was needed, but with remote participation being the norm, I am hoping this can change.
Nashwa Elsayed	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K192	YES	NO	
NORMA QUIZHPI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K112	NO	NO	

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Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
NOWSHIN ALI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K223	NO	YES	I have served on PA as co- President for 3 years, on SLT for one year and volunteered as parent interpreter for 5 years. During this period, I have helped organize several events/festivals around equity and inclusion like Know Your Rights, Tenant Rights, anti-bullying workshop, language meetings, Eid, Lunar new year, Losar, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzah and Diwali Celebrations.
OLIVIA SANDLER	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K185	NO	NO	Throughout my lifetime and as far as I can remember the concept of "service" has molded me into the person I am today. As far as I can recall, I began volunteering from the young age of 11, first through school as a weekly Sunday Mass lecturer and then as a volunteer at a local nursing home. I have stayed diligent in making a commitment to serve people in any capacity needed. Over the past decade, it's been an honor to serve in my community as a Girl Scout Troop Leader for the Girl Scout of Greater New York Chapter. Becoming a troop leader has given me great clarity and perspective on the importance of giving back and mentoring young women. I have learned to "discover, connect and take action". Inevitably, joining this amazing organization has allowed me to develop relationships with many like minded people. Thus creating a community of family, friends, neighbors, associates and mentors. This experience has allowed me to further my service involvement as a Community Advisory Board Member, for a local domestic tier 1 shelter. Our mission at CAB is to provide support for the families and staff of the shelter through programming such as holiday activities, workshops and events. It is my dream to continue my passion of working with people especially young people. Becoming a voice for my community as a Education Council representative would be honor and would enable me to continue making a difference.
PHOO PWINT KHINE	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K310	NO	NO	I am a 30-years-old woman with energy and enthusiasm to make things better for children. I believe that being a good community member is the best way to teach children to be a good person and become a leader in the future. I also believe that nurturing children well now is the most important to make this world better since they are our future. As a parent of 2 children, a senior City College student studying Childhood Education major (Elementary Mathematics concentration) with an associate degree in Childhood education, I believe I will be a great fit for this position as I am capable of giving helpful suggestions regarding education. I understand the struggles of parents especially during this challenging time with pandemic and remote learning. Moreover, I have experiences in different styles of online classes from good and interactive to not a very promising one yet noticing what are the flaws and ways to improve. My biggest assets to serve in this position would be my experiences being in different elementary classrooms during my fieldwork hours, the willingness to learn continuously, have years of experiences in teaching and tutoring mathematics and after all having an understanding of what parents, teachers and future educators struggles in making children's learning better. There are always something to learn in everything you do and there are always rooms to improve. It's never too late to start a new route.

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Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
ROMINA MARI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K186	NO	NO	To be part of the Education Council would be a great opportunity to give a voice to parents who have been ignored of how our school system needs to improve and changes need to be made to better serve our children who are the future.
SALIM RAJANI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K104	NO	NO	Hello Parents, Frankly speaking I don't have any prior experience in this but being a parent everyone has an experience of educating their kids and their need of education. I'm from India and my wife is from Tajikistan. We have 2 kids, a girl studying in Grade 1 and a boy who's is going to be 2 years old this March 2021. Being from 2 different countries, our kids are learning multiple languages at home. Sometime this is a problem but as the time passes, kids get well versed with this multi language experience. I'm myself a Masters graduate in Business and commerce from India and my wife is double graduated from Tajikistan. I would Like to grab this opportunity of serving our community in district 20 and contribute a bit of my versatile knowledge and experience in bettering our education and working towards better future of our kids. Vote If you feel I can contribute towards betterment of our community. Thank you!
SARAID VAQUERO	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K164	YES	NO	
SELINA SEULI	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K179	NO	YES	

CEC 20 Candidate Brochure

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Stephen Stowe	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K259	NO	NO	<p>I have lived in New York City for 17 years. In 2019, my family and I moved to District 20 because of the good schools and the multi-cultural character. I have 2 sons - a 6th grader and a high school freshman - and I work in finance. I believe all students have unique learning needs, schools must have flexibility to offer programs which are best for their learning community, and the Community Education Council should offer constructive ideas that will benefit the children of District 20. I have served on the CEC for District 20 since December 2020 and I have been the President of the CEC since January 2021. During my short time as President of the CEC, my focus has been on improving the CEC's communication with schools and parents. I have done this by restarting the liaison program, engaging in respectful, collaborative dialogue with schools, working on a new survey that we plan to send to parents this spring, and taking steps to make our social media presence more effective. Southwest Brooklyn is a community shaped by immigration. Our education system has a responsibility to offer the high-quality education opportunities which many immigrant families seek when they arrive here. This must include programs for English as a second language, bilingual, or dual-language programs. And the CEC must do a better job of reaching out to immigrant parents. All students learn differently. Students with advanced learning abilities should have the opportunity to learn in classes with similar students and taught by teachers trained to meet their unique needs. I would like the CEC to be a voice of support in the upcoming debate over the future of advanced learning in NYC. Students with disabilities should be an ongoing priority for any school district given the moral obligation and the legal requirement to provide a free, appropriate education in the least restrictive environment possible. Navigating the system can be challenging and the CEC should strive to provide our parents with a complete understanding of all their options. The best way to serve any student "including language learners, academically advanced students, and students with disabilities" is to recognize that each school community is unique. DOE mandates must be met. But individual schools - guided by parent input - should be given flexibility to offer programming that best fits their learning community. And District-wide programs should be available if a program cannot be offered at a student's zoned school. Finally, a little more about me. Born and raised in New Hampshire. I have lived in the Middle East for 1.5 years, including time spent working as a liaison between the US State Department and the Arab citizens of Israel. I have volunteered for several years with Restore NYC, mentoring a sex-trafficking survivor from the Caribbean. In my free time, I am learning Vietnamese. I believe in policy, not politics. I am a problem solver, not an ideologue. I am an optimist. I respectfully ask for your vote to serve as a member of the Community Education Council for District 20.</p>

CEC 20 Candidate Brochure

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TAMARA STERN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K259	YES	NO	<p>I have been a Parent Leader for over seven years and continue to be a very active member of my community. I have been PTA President for both elementary and middle school for about seven years. I have been on the SLT (school leadership Team) for both elementary and middle school and on the Title1 committee for both high school and middle school as well. For both the elementary and the middle school that I have been a part of we have been awarded over half a million dollars in funds from our city council. It is with dedication, time and much help from our wonderful parents in our school community that we were able to make a profit of over \$100,000 for both my PTA's. I am currently Vice President of D20 President's Council and I have strived to help increase the communication between all the PTA's in District 20 which has been hard because of Covid-19. I believe we can do much if we come together as a whole. I love helping my schools and parents whether they are in need or just to share important information. I have met so many people of different nationalities being a parent leader that it has made me appreciate living in Bay Ridge. I am a strong advocate for ALL of our children in this District because I believe that as parents we are our children's voice when they feel voiceless. We are the first defense for our kids so we, as parents, need all the knowledge available to better help our kids reach their fullest potential. I have sat and watched the lack of communication and dismissiveness happening in this district to our parent community during this pandemic. Our Council members are elected by our parents so therefore they are there to advocate for them in a respectful manner. They are NOT there to represent just one certain part of the community because that does a disservice to all members of this community. As a parent of a child in special education I have fought hard and often for services for my child. I know how it feels to be frustrated and feel marginalized by this district when it comes to just getting mandated services for my child. I understand how a parent can feel discouraged and alone with this struggle. I want to advocate for those parents because we are many and we need the voice of someone who will hear us and see us. It is demoralizing to feel that the needs of your child does not count and unfortunately this is how many parents are feeling and its a feeling which has been exacerbated by this pandemic. We need the doe and our district to do better by our kids. We need parents that are truly willing to help solve problems in our district. We need parents that are going to question the right and wrong of our district and hold them accountable. We NEED people that are willing to be a voice out there advocating even if they are standing alone and fighting alone. I am that person.</p>

CEC 20 Candidate Brochure

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
TAMARA STERN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K490	NO	NO	<p>I have been a Parent Leader for over seven years and continue to be a very active member of my community. I have been PTA President for both elementary and middle school for about seven years. I have been on the SLT (school leadership Team) for both elementary and middle school and on the Title1 committee for both high school and middle school as well. For both the elementary and the middle school that I have been a part of we have been awarded over half a million dollars in funds from our city council. It is with dedication, time and much help from our wonderful parents in our school community that we were able to make a profit of over \$100,000 for both my PTA's. I am currently Vice President of D20 President's Council and I have strived to help increase the communication between all the PTA's in District 20 which has been hard because of Covid-19. I believe we can do much if we come together as a whole. I love helping my schools and parents whether they are in need or just to share important information. I have met so many people of different nationalities being a parent leader that it has made me appreciate living in Bay Ridge. I am a strong advocate for ALL of our children in this District because I believe that as parents we are our children's voice when they feel voiceless. We are the first defense for our kids so we, as parents, need all the knowledge available to better help our kids reach their fullest potential. I have sat and watched the lack of communication and dismissiveness happening in this district to our parent community during this pandemic. Our Council members are elected by our parents so therefore they are there to advocate for them in a respectful manner. They are NOT there to represent just one certain part of the community because that does a disservice to all members of this community. As a parent of a child in special education I have fought hard and often for services for my child. I know how it feels to be frustrated and feel marginalized by this district when it comes to just getting mandated services for my child. I understand how a parent can feel discouraged and alone with this struggle. I want to advocate for those parents because we are many and we need the voice of someone who will hear us and see us. It is demoralizing to feel that the needs of your child does not count and unfortunately this is how many parents are feeling and its a feeling which has been exacerbated by this pandemic. We need the doe and our district to do better by our kids. We need parents that are truly willing to help solve problems in our district. We need parents that are going to question the right and wrong of our district and hold them accountable. We NEED people that are willing to be a voice out there advocating even if they are standing alone and fighting alone. I am that person.</p>
TASHAWNA GRAHAM	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K062	NO	NO	<p>I want to be a part of community council because it's what I would enjoy doing, being a voice for others it's what I'm good. It will make me a better person and allow me skills I would not have otherwise. I want to be a part of council because I feel I bring unique ideas to council and I like being a part of something that can do monumental for the schools. I can expand in my worldview, develop empathy and leadership skills, and realize how actions can have a positive impact on someone else. Choose me to be your community council!</p>

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Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ukhra Nadeem	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K200	NO	NO	I would like to serve and to satisfy the needs of students by providing a voice to the administration and general public. My mission will be to improve the experience of students through initiatives that enrich the intellectual and social aspects of their lives.
Vito LaBella	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	13K430	NO	NO	I have been an elected member of the D20 CEC for the last two years. During that time (long before the present pandemic) I advocated for more transparency and accessibility at the CEC. Specifically, I took an interest to ensure that all parents knew that they could attend our Business meetings, that all CEC meetings (including replacement CEC Candidate interviews) should be recorded and posted, that our website was relevant and kept current and that the CEC complied with all open meeting law requirements. With everybody's help, these are now standard operating procedures for the D20 CEC. During my tenure at the CEC, I cosponsored successful resolutions seeking to retain Gifted and Talented programs in D20 and to keep the Admissions Criteria for Superintendent's programs and screened schools. Equally important, I opposed resolutions that impeded a parent's right to send their children to in person school or that were inappropriately divisive. I also advocated for parents who believe that requiring a child to consent to in school testing without a parent being present or without a reasonable alternative is unethical and unlawful. I am a dad of two boys and a girl in the NYC Public School System. I have been a PTO President at the Christa McAuliffe Middle School since May 2017 and on the SLT since 2016. I am on the PA Executive Board, SLT and Safety Committee at Brooklyn Technical High School. I have also served as President, Vice President and now Treasurer of the District 20 President's Council. I cofounded PLACE NYC, which advocates for a high quality, challenging education for every student in NYC DOE Public Schools by increasing the academic rigor of all school curriculum and the expansion of accelerated opportunities including Gifted and Talented, Honors and Special Progress, as well as the Specialized High Schools. I believe that accelerated curriculum at all grade levels improves individual student outcomes, advances integration efforts, and strengthens school quality. I have personally lobbied politicians on the City, State and Federal level, led protests, and spoken to members of both print and visual media. My vision for the next two years is simple: parent centered choice. There are too many families whose children are entitled to IEP and Special Ed services who are not getting them. There are thousands of families that clamor for highly rigorous curriculum and strict pedagogy that have been told no. I will continue to stand up to this wrongheaded agenda that wants to do away with zoning, to do away with assessments, and makes excuses for a DOE that can't educate the most at risk students. I will push to have all children in PreK evaluated to determine what services best suit them or what program will help them self-actualize. I will continue to raise my voice against the forces that want to close the equity gap, not by improving all children's performance, but by pulling children down and holding them back. I will hold the DOE as well as the new Chancellor and the new District Superintendent accountable. I will work with lawyers who will help our families attain the services for which they are legally entitled. I will work with our next mayor to demand

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Vito LaBella	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K187	NO	NO	<p>I have been an elected member of the D20 CEC for the last two years. During that time (long before the present pandemic) I advocated for more transparency and accessibility at the CEC. Specifically, I took an interest to ensure that all parents knew that they could attend our Business meetings, that all CEC meetings (including replacement CEC Candidate interviews) should be recorded and posted, that our website was relevant and kept current and that the CEC complied with all open meeting law requirements. With everybody's help, these are now standard operating procedures for the D20 CEC. During my tenure at the CEC, I cosponsored successful resolutions seeking to retain Gifted and Talented programs in D20 and to keep the Admissions Criteria for Superintendent's programs and screened schools. Equally important, I opposed resolutions that impeded a parent's right to send their children to in person school or that were inappropriately divisive. I also advocated for parents who believe that requiring a child to consent to in school testing without a parent being present or without a reasonable alternative is unethical and unlawful. I am a dad of two boys and a girl in the NYC Public School System. I have been a PTO President at the Christa McAuliffe Middle School since May 2017 and on the SLT since 2016. I am on the PA Executive Board, SLT and Safety Committee at Brooklyn Technical High School. I have also served as President, Vice President and now Treasurer of the District 20 President's Council. I cofounded PLACE NYC, which advocates for a high quality, challenging education for every student in NYC DOE Public Schools by increasing the academic rigor of all school curriculum and the expansion of accelerated opportunities including Gifted and Talented, Honors and Special Progress, as well as the Specialized High Schools. I believe that accelerated curriculum at all grade levels improves individual student outcomes, advances integration efforts, and strengthens school quality. I have personally lobbied politicians on the City, State and Federal level, led protests, and spoken to members of both print and visual media. My vision for the next two years is simple: parent centered choice. There are too many families whose children are entitled to IEP and Special Ed services who are not getting them. There are thousands of families that clamor for highly rigorous curriculum and strict pedagogy that have been told no. I will continue to stand up to this wrongheaded agenda that wants to do away with zoning, to do away with assessments, and makes excuses for a DOE that can't educate the most at risk students. I will push to have all children in PreK evaluated to determine what services best suit them or what program will help them self-actualize. I will continue to raise my voice against the forces that want to close the equity gap, not by improving all children's performance, but by pulling children down and holding them back. I will hold the DOE as well as the new Chancellor and the new District Superintendent accountable. I will work with lawyers who will help</p>

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WENMING CHEN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K180	YES	YES	Dear parents, I'm wenming Chen. I have two kids currently attending public school, and one of them currently in IEP. As a first generation immigrant, it's my pleasure to run for Cec 20 member. I am eager to serve and share my experience with the D20 community. I want to help new immigrant families like mine to better communicate their needs to the schools. I've been an active member of PTA at my children's schools. I was nominated and elected as PS160 PTA president. During my term as the PTA president, I organized bake sales, scholastic book club sales. I sponsored events such as pumpkin patch, Thanksgiving school festival and chinese new year celebration activities. My volunteer activities have not only created many happy and cherishable memories to the kids, but the funds also contributed to the success of chess club and dance classes at PS 160. I believe in parent participation and engagement with their children's learning process. I also want to set a good example to my children. During the learning process, I also managed to obtain a GED degree. I believe in merit, and I hope that our children will have opportunities to receive better education and I hope that through their hard work, they will be able to contribute to society . I hope I can bring a brand new experience and prospective to cec 20.
WENMING CHEN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K180	NO	YES	Dear parents, I'm wenming Chen. I have two kids currently attending public school, and one of them currently in IEP. As a first generation immigrant, it's my pleasure to run for Cec 20 member. I am eager to serve and share my experience with the D20 community. I want to help new immigrant families like mine to better communicate their needs to the schools. I've been an active member of PTA at my children's schools. I was nominated and elected as PS160 PTA president. During my term as the PTA president, I organized bake sales, scholastic book club sales. I sponsored events such as pumpkin patch, Thanksgiving school festival and chinese new year celebration activities. My volunteer activities have not only created many happy and cherishable memories to the kids, but the funds also contributed to the success of chess club and dance classes at PS 160. I believe in parent participation and engagement with their children's learning process. I also want to set a good example to my children. During the learning process, I also managed to obtain a GED degree. I believe in merit, and I hope that our children will have opportunities to receive better education and I hope that through their hard work, they will be able to contribute to society . I hope I can bring a brand new experience and prospective to cec 20.
XIANGCHUN HUANG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K127	NO	YES	As a father of three kids in NYC public school, i believe i need to do more something for the community, even if what i can do right now is limited, but not staring you will never get the improvement and you will never know what will be happened at the next step. For the children, for the schools and for the community, i have the responsibility to go. Thank you.

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XIANGCHUN HUANG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K201	NO	YES	As a father of three kids in NYC public school, i believe i need to do more something for the community, even if what i can do right now is limited, but not staring you will never get the improvement and you will never know what will be happened at the next step. For the children, for the schools and for the community, i have the responsibility to go. Thank you.
XIANGCHUN HUANG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K768	NO	NO	As a father of three kids in NYC public school, i believe i need to do more something for the community, even if what i can do right now is limited, but not staring you will never get the improvement and you will never know what will be happened at the next step. For the children, for the schools and for the community, i have the responsibility to go. Thank you.
YAN FENG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K048	NO	NO	
YANYUN YOU	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K227	NO	YES	
YOLANDA NUNEZ-GREEN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K180	NO	NO	
YUE HUA CHEN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K205	NO	NO	
YUN CAI FANG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K220	NO	NO	The reason why I think serving on an education council is very important is we can help schools make different decisions, helping parents get more information about their children's schools. Such is the safety, learning environment, etc. I have been a SLT member for my child's school for about a year, I have learned a lot from the school members.
YUN CAI FANG	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K503	NO	NO	The reason why I think serving on an education council is very important is we can help schools make different decisions, helping parents get more information about their children's schools. Such is the safety, learning environment, etc. I have been a SLT member for my child's school for about a year, I have learned a lot from the school members.
YUNLEI CHEN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K204	NO	NO	
ZHEN LIN	CEC20	Community Education Council (20)	20K310	NO	NO	