

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Tania Agrawal	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M312	NO	NO	Quality education is the bedrock of society and I have been brought up in an environment that values education. I spent my childhood in Singapore where the educational system is a lot rigorous. Having lived in NYC for over twenty years, I have experienced the education system with my older son about 15 years ago and now with my younger son who is in Grade 7 at NYC Lab Middle School for Collaborative Studies. I have seen how things have changed and have a good insight into opportunities for improvement. I am a proponent for top-notch quality education and see that this is one of the differentiating areas of NYC to attract growth in population, economic and cultural.
CYNTHIA ALDER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M167	YES	NO	
Ruchika Anand	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M183	NO	NO	My first job was as a teacher and that taught me that it can be equally frustrating and empowering but most importantly it can be transformative. Growing up I was taught by my parents that education was the only investment worth making. Equal opportunity to education, specifically elementary education, is key to building a strong nation. We say, education is a right and cannot be denied to anybody. But providing a building and a group of educators is not enough. Providing continuous avenues for development and growth of our educators is the foundation of creating a sustainable model. I grew up in a highly competitive environment, it was tough, at the same time I had all the support and resources available to focus entirely on a wholesome education. I went to engineering school, worked across India, and then came to the USA for grad school. After that, I have worked with corporations, associations, and non-profits for 15 years. Whether as a student or as a professional, one thing I have always been amazed by is the power of positively inspiring through knowledge, competition, and empathy. After my first job as a teenager teaching elementary kids, I have taught adult professionals to my own kids at home. Over the past year, as our school was running short on staff with expanded needs due to pandemic, I stepped being a subject teacher. In these unprecedented times, schools globally had to reaccess their resources and had to cut corners, resulting in less knowledge imparted to our young fertile minds. For schools in underprivileged areas, this dearth of resources was prevalent even before the pandemic. We as a community have to get together as a parent, as a volunteer, as a teacher, as an admin to take care of any precededented or unprecedented slumps in the learning trajectory of our children. A good teacher can bring out the best in a student. And a good teacher needs to be continuously educated to understand cultural, technological shifts. Long-term investment in the profession needs to be made with research and innovation. Every generation brings different complexities, educating each generation is different. Nowadays young minds come cluttered with random information and ideas, all of which need understanding, fostering, or remediating. Teachers need more than just college degrees to handle such complexity. If I am elected, I hope to bring all parties to the table to develop and focus on primary education. I believe in providing an equitable foundation in elementary schools that develops both cognitive and noncognitive capabilities, which can go a long way in creating motivated middle and high schoolers and in creating diverse achievers.

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JOCELYN ANKER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M255	NO	NO	As a long-time community advocate for public education, I have served as PTA President, chaired numerous PTA committees and events, and served on 6 Executive Boards and 3 SLTs at two different public schools. In those roles, I have worked passionately and collaboratively with parents, students, and administrators to ensure that our children receive the best possible education. Through this teamwork I have gleaned considerable knowledge of the inner workings of the systems that interweave to create the complex framework of public education: the DoE, the SCA, the DHS, SLTs, PTAs, Community Boards and CECs, to name a few. For better or for worse, this patchwork of institutions is what we must navigate to implement change, and doing so requires patience, perseverance, kindness and an open-mind -- qualities I strive to bring to the table. Over the past year, I have also committed myself to getting critical supplies like headsets, PPE and other day-to-day items to the 1500 Students in District 2 who live in Temporary Housing. As New Yorkers, we know that challenging times lie ahead -- challenges and hurdles I am concerned could set our kids back even further than we imagine. For that reason, we need strong leaders who are going to roll up their sleeves and do the hard work; and if we want to be successful in moving our systems and families into this unknown future, it is essential that we stay open-minded and work together.
Serena Antoniewicz	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M158	YES	NO	As a lifelong New Yorker and product of the public school system I have a deep affection for the opportunities it can provide. Opportunities it should provide in an unbiased universal way. Every child deserves a free, inclusive, safe space to learn and thrive. As my family goes into year two of our NYC public school education experience it is clear to me that a stronger presence of active and engaged parents are needed to be a part of important conversations. I feel that my background in nonprofit work--centric around children's causes. Currently working in development with the NYPL, with 8 years involvement--though a lifelong library card member, I feel that I have all children and their families needs at the forefront of what is to come after an extraordinary year.
MICHELE ATKINSON	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M413	YES	NO	I believe all children have the right to attend good schools. Children learn in a variety of ways and students and parents need options to send their child(ren) to a school that supports their learning style. Equity is an important part of creating a community of schools that welcome diversity of students learning styles, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity and gender. I served on the Parents Association of my son's elementary school as a treasurer. It was a fulfilling experience and required a considerable time commitment. My son attended a small elementary school CPE I and as a parent in a small school, I volunteered for several events such as Fall Festival, Game Night, chaperoning ice skating and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Not all parents are able to be involved as a volunteer in their school community, those of us that can have the responsibility of advocating and uplifting their voices. Striving to provide excellent education for our children, which includes the arts, is a community effort. I would like to contribute to creating equity based education systems.
SUNNY BARTOLI	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M126	NO	NO	Having a child who has special needs is not easy, but it is very rewarding. There are so much that we can do to improve their learning environments. I would love to serve and contribute to our community for these exceptional special needs children. They need a future and they will have a future!
SAFIA BELKAID ABDELAZ	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M281	NO	YES	

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RUFINA BEN-HORIN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M340	NO	NO	I am a professional with experience in technology, management, budgets, and leadership. All my children are or have been educated in the public school system. I decided to run because I am very concerned about the current state of public education and the policies in place which have caused a deterioration in the quality of our children’s education. My older children have gone on to successful careers in engineering and finance, and I am an immigrant who was educated in Russia. I feel that my diverse background and experiences both as a parent and a student provide me with a unique perspective to advocate for the right policies for our children. The success of district schools have a trickle-down effect not only on the success of our children but also on the prosperity of the district. As a long-term resident, the well being of our children and our community are my number one priority. If you give me your vote, I will work extremely hard to fight for changes that will have a positive impact for all of us.
JESUS BENITEZ	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M422	YES	NO	
SHANNON BERKOWSKY	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M183	NO	NO	My name is Shannon and I have two daughters in 3rd and 5th grades at PS 183 in District 2. I have been the Co-President of the PTA at PS 183 for the past two years and have been a member of the Executive Board of the PTA since my oldest was in Kindergarten. Serving on the PTA is incredibly fulfilling. As a parent, I do whatever I can to give my children the opportunity to learn and succeed. As a member of the PTA, I have had a part in giving each student at PS 183 the opportunity to learn and be successful by listening to the parent body and supporting the administration. I look forward to joining the CEC and giving all students in District 2 the opportunity to learn and be successful by listening to the concerns of District 2 families and working closely with CEC members to support our families. Education goes beyond my family and my community. I have been a teacher for the past 12 years and feel most at home in a classroom setting. As a member of the CEC, I will utilize my experiences as a parent and educator to support educational policies that make sense. If we've learned anything from the past few years, it's that listening to each other and working together are the only paths to progress. On the CEC I will listen to our families and students and work collaboratively with CEC members to carve a path of progress for all of our students.

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Robin Broshi	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M413	YES	NO	<p>I have served on the CEC since 2014 and have successfully advocated for the students and families in District 2 by leading reform efforts to bring greater equity to our schools, improving the education of our children, and elevating the voices of our families. My primary policy focus has been school integration. I am particularly proud of the partnerships I built with education equity leaders around the city, including the amazing young people at TeensTakeCharge. It is absolutely imperative that we listen and amplify the voices of the young people who go through our public school system and are most subjected to the harms of attending public schools in the most segregated school system in the country. I agree and support the students and families who demand fair access to integrated schools and want to build on recent policy challenges that have reduced barriers of access to schools and centered the needs of traditionally marginalized student populations. I'm the parent of a 10th grader and a 7th grader and in addition to my work on the CEC2, I spent 3 years on Community Board 6, 7 years on the SLT at PS11, and am currently serving as Co-President of the Beacon High School PTA, Secretary of the Manhattan High School President's Council, and high school parent representative on the District 2 District Leadership Team. In my various leadership roles I have used an equity-based focus to craft policies around school safety, elementary school homework moderation, including parents in teacher professional development opportunities, expanding access to a district Gifted and Talented program, forcing middle schools to disclose rubrics used for evaluating applicants, eliminating the use of attendance in school admissions, and redesigning a high school's application process to adjust to changes brought on by covid and prioritize access for students eligible for free and reduced lunch. I also bring a deep knowledge of how parent leadership groups, like SLTs, PTAs, and Citywide Councils are run, having served in elected leadership as Chair of the PS11 SLT, Co-President of the Beacon PTA, and President of the District 2 CEC. I have helped usher through updates to the bylaws of the SLT and the CEC. The institutional and historical knowledge that accompanies having served on the council for the past 7 years will serve every new member and ensure the Council can continue to be effective from the first day of its new term.</p>

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Robin Broshi	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	03M479	NO	NO	<p>I have served on the CEC since 2014 and have successfully advocated for the students and families in District 2 by leading reform efforts to bring greater equity to our schools, improving the education of our children, and elevating the voices of our families. My primary policy focus has been school integration. I am particularly proud of the partnerships I built with education equity leaders around the city, including the amazing young people at TeensTakeCharge. It is absolutely imperative that we listen and amplify the voices of the young people who go through our public school system and are most subjected to the harms of attending public schools in the most segregated school system in the country. I agree and support the students and families who demand fair access to integrated schools and want to build on recent policy challenges that have reduced barriers of access to schools and centered the needs of traditionally marginalized student populations. I'm the parent of a 10th grader and a 7th grader and in addition to my work on the CEC2, I spent 3 years on Community Board 6, 7 years on the SLT at PS11, and am currently serving as Co-President of the Beacon High School PTA, Secretary of the Manhattan High School President's Council, and high school parent representative on the District 2 District Leadership Team. In my various leadership roles I have used an equity-based focus to craft policies around school safety, elementary school homework moderation, including parents in teacher professional development opportunities, expanding access to a district Gifted and Talented program, forcing middle schools to disclose rubrics used for evaluating applicants, eliminating the use of attendance in school admissions, and redesigning a high school's application process to adjust to changes brought on by covid and prioritize access for students eligible for free and reduced lunch. I also bring a deep knowledge of how parent leadership groups, like SLTs, PTAs, and Citywide Councils are run, having served in elected leadership as Chair of the PS11 SLT, Co-President of the Beacon PTA, and President of the District 2 CEC. I have helped usher through updates to the bylaws of the SLT and the CEC. The institutional and historical knowledge that accompanies having served on the council for the past 7 years will serve every new member and ensure the Council can continue to be effective from the first day of its new term.</p>
CARLO CALABRO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M397	NO	NO	

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BRANDY CARBONE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M312	NO	NO	<p>I would like to be considered for a position on the D2 CEC. I honestly struggled with applying. These past two years have been a travesty, embarrassment and completely ineffective. Why would anyone want to be a part of an organization that can bring them public shame, being plastered on social and national media? Why would anyone want to pass 100s of resolutions that result in no action, with multiple versions passed so the divided group can one-up wordsmith each other? Why would anyone want to be a part of an echo chamber, where your ideas are expressed in yelling over your fellow organization members? The Education Council is important to me because I believe it is a forum to hear from the voices throughout our district. I believe if run correctly, it can pass meaningful resolutions which can positively impact the families in our districts. I believe that when properly run, we can have healthy debate among our families and committee members. I believe volunteers can be appreciated, not shamed. I believe parents can be part of the solution. If properly run, our local government will give the CEC an audience, not turn them away due to their inability to appear thoughtful and professional. I have been the PA Co-President at NYC Lab Middle School for the last 3 years. Before coming to Lab, I was at an elementary parochial school on the upper west side, where I was an Auction Co-Chair for 2 years as well as a PA Co-President for 3 years. I was also a New York Road Runner Parent Volunteer Coach for the Young Runners Club. Now I am applying to the CEC. (Clearly I am a glutton for punishment!)</p> <p>My background showcases that I truly believe in service and donating my time to the betterment of my children's school and their education. My middle school is screened. My son is attending HSMSE this year, which is specialized. I openly say this, but I also clearly want to state that I have no agenda. If I am placed on the council, it is not MY council for me to push a personal agenda or vendetta. I would be elected as a representative of the families of the district. I cannot state my agenda as I do not know what my parents would want. I want to be fair, balanced and I will always listen to all sides of an argument and will not make a decision until everyone has been heard. May I also say I do not like to waste time. No more four hour meetings! And personal attacks will not be allowed. I believe this year people got sidetracked with what they believed was right and just, not realizing that they were the exact example of what they were fighting against. If we taught our children to behave the way this year's CEC behaved, it would be appalling. Yes, I struggle applying today. But I have no choice. I cannot sit idly by watching our families have no voice and our leadership to become a mockery and a cliché. I hope my participation on the CEC will bring it back to being a purposeful organization, a tool to advance better education practices for all of our children. To me, that is a meaningful goal. Thank you for your consideration. Brandy K. Carbone</p>

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BRANDY CARBONE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	05M692	NO	NO	<p>I would like to be considered for a position on the D2 CEC. I honestly struggled with applying. These past two years have been a travesty, embarrassment and completely ineffective. Why would anyone want to be a part of an organization that can bring them public shame, being plastered on social and national media? Why would anyone want to pass 100s of resolutions that result in no action, with multiple versions passed so the divided group can one-up wordsmith each other? Why would anyone want to be a part of an echo chamber, where your ideas are expressed in yelling over your fellow organization members? The Education Council is important to me because I believe it is a forum to hear from the voices throughout our district. I believe if run correctly, it can pass meaningful resolutions which can positively impact the families in our districts. I believe that when properly run, we can have healthy debate among our families and committee members. I believe volunteers can be appreciated, not shamed. I believe parents can be part of the solution. If properly run, our local government will give the CEC an audience, not turn them away due to their inability to appear thoughtful and professional. I have been the PA Co-President at NYC Lab Middle School for the last 3 years. Before coming to Lab, I was at an elementary parochial school on the upper west side, where I was an Auction Co-Chair for 2 years as well as a PA Co-President for 3 years. I was also a New York Road Runner Parent Volunteer Coach for the Young Runners Club. Now I am applying to the CEC. (Clearly I am a glutton for punishment!)</p> <p>My background showcases that I truly believe in service and donating my time to the betterment of my children's school and their education. My middle school is screened. My son is attending HSMSE this year, which is specialized. I openly say this, but I also clearly want to state that I have no agenda. If I am placed on the council, it is not MY council for me to push a personal agenda or vendetta. I would be elected as a representative of the families of the district. I cannot state my agenda as I do not know what my parents would want. I want to be fair, balanced and I will always listen to all sides of an argument and will not make a decision until everyone has been heard. May I also say I do not like to waste time. No more four hour meetings! And personal attacks will not be allowed. I believe this year people got sidetracked with what they believed was right and just, not realizing that they were the exact example of what they were fighting against. If we taught our children to behave the way this year's CEC behaved, it would be appalling. Yes, I struggle applying today. But I have no choice. I cannot sit idly by watching our families have no voice and our leadership to become a mockery and a cliché. I hope my participation on the CEC will bring it back to being a purposeful organization, a tool to advance better education practices for all of our children. To me, that is a meaningful goal. Thank you for your consideration. Brandy K. Carbone</p>

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NICOLE CARTA	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M158	NO	NO	<p>My name is Nicole Carta, I am a mother of a Kindergartner and a 3rd grader at PS158, a city employee, and an individual committed to improving our school system. I am a New Yorker by choice, living first in the East Village and now Yorkville for nine years. I currently lead the office of public-private partnerships for the City’s Administration for Children’s Services, where I focus efforts on building strategic alliances and resources in support of New York City families. I am choosing to run because I believe strongly in the need to address inequities in our education system. I have chosen to live in New York and raise my girls in this great city because of the beautiful diversity of ideas and experiences and cultures New Yorkers bring – this acquaintance we all share to such an array of humanity is what makes this city the vibrant epicenter that it is. But I am saddened by the fact that our schools do not mirror this gift, do not deliver the best New York has to offer for all its students. Our schools are segregated, and our system upholds inequities for children of color where in fact there is plenty for all. Change moves slowly I understand, but the history on this in NYC is untenable. I am deeply committed to this mission, either as your new community board member or as an engaged and vocal parent moving forward. I am deeply aware of the entrenched nature of this issue – integration of our schools – and the many efforts currently underway to address this challenge. I hope to bring some fresh energy, ideas and consensus-building to achieve the goal I believe we truly all share: to provide all our children with the best educational experience possible. Moreover, the combined isolation and economic crises brought on by the pandemic will require a special focus of professionalism, dedication and creativity to ensure that our children and youth, teachers, administrators and staff bounce back from this past year with help and patience. The city is likely facing tough budget decisions and we will need a strong, organized and well-informed Community Education Council to ensure our children do not bear the brunt of the economic crisis and that communities hardest-hit by the pandemic get the additional resources and support they need. To support this effort, I would bring to CEC D2 over 20 years of cumulative professional experience with NYC government, the United Nations and the private sector. Lessons from living in four countries, proficiency in Spanish and an MBA. I have sat on and led boards, and from 2002 – 2012 co-founded and ran an NGO dedicated to child well-being in East Africa. I have much to learn about Community Education Councils and would pledge to bring the full weight of my energy and enthusiasm to do so in the service of all School District 2 families and children. I hope you will consider a vote for me or another who shares my vision for a school system that offers opportunities and equity to all of our students. Thank you</p>
PORSCHE CARVALHO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M033	YES	NO	
PORSCHE CARVALHO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M422	YES	NO	

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Helena Cawley	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M234	NO	NO	<p>Hello District 2 Families! My name is Helena Cawley and I am applying to join the CEC for District 2 because I am passionate about helping our children heal from the past year and our schools come back to be better than ever before. Our city is at a cross-roads right now, and although I believe that the future looks brighter than it has in some time, we will not effect change without people like myself stepping up to the challenge. We, as parents, have all suffered and sacrificed enormously in the past year and our children perhaps even more so. They have experienced the changes that COVID-19 has forced on their education so acutely. I have seen my previously gregarious five-year old cry with anxiety about going into school because she doesnâ€™t feel comfortable with her fellow students or teachers given the lack of time they have spent together physically. It is painful to watch as a parent and I know that our community can do better by them. When both my father and my stepmother died from complications related to COVID-19 in March 2020 and April 2020, respectively, my Kindergartner got a dose of reality I had hoped to shield her from for many more years. My father was a physician at a hospital in Brooklyn, and his passion for his patients and his practice guided him until his final days. His memory has fueled a burning desire within me to follow in his footsteps and to take action on behalf of my family and my personal beliefs. I began my career as a corporate attorney at two prestigious law firms in New York City. My legal background and training helped to hone my skills as a writer, communicator, negotiator and critical thinker. In 2011, I opened a small business and lead a team of 20+ employees as Co-founder and CEO of a fitness studio called Uplift. For the next five years, I wore every hat imaginable. I was responsible for strategic planning, financial tracking, performance analytics, fundraising and investor relations. I was always willing to do whatever was necessary on a day to day basis to ensure the success of the company. Youâ€™d be surprised at how good I got at unclogging toilets and cleaning hair out of the showers! I am a staunch fighter for my causes and my superpower is to always find a way through a brick wall. I care wholeheartedly about all individualâ€™s rights, and it is this passion that led me to take the role of President for an organization called HABIT (Harassment, Acceptance, Bias and Inclusion Training) for the past two years. Together with some of the major leaders of #metoo and Time's Up, I helped develop a new way to deliver workplace training in the areas of Diversity & Inclusion and Sexual Harassment Prevention. HABIT offers workshops and consulting that allow company employees to have an open and productive dialogue with each other and to realize how much work there is to do beyond just awareness and surface understanding of what's the right or wrong way to treat each other. I am on the PTA at my daughterâ€™s school (PS234) as the Vice President of Community Affairs. I have participated in many CEC calls and have a deep understanding of the issues before us. I am eager to have a greater voice within the community to help our families heal, our schools thrive, and our children learn. I will listen in order to learn and will fight endlessly for our community. One of my closest friends recently described me as â€œruthlessly efficientâ€œ and I think that is the best compliment Iâ€™ve ever gotten. I work well with people from all different walks of life and I am comfortable walking into any</p>
NIOVI CHRISTOPOULOU	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M006	YES	NO	<p>I am a mother of two boys. My older one currently attends PS6 while we plan for the younger one to attend next year. Our family has a multicultural background as both parents are from different countries and with different experiences, especially relating to education. I would love to contribute my passion for education and love of our public school through hard work and willingness to serve our community. I am an attorney and I have been educated in both Europe and NYC and I have lots of ideas on how we could improve education in our district.</p>

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YENCHING CHUANG	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M150	NO	NO	My name is Yen-Ching Chuang. I am running for a position as a member of the District 2 Community Education Council. I am the mom of a 5 year-old kindergarten student in District 2, at a school located in lower Manhattan. During the pandemic my child has been enrolled in remote learning, and I have supervised his education in all his classes on a daily basis. In addition to my experience as a mom (a hands-on “EduMom” during the pandemic), I have a professional background in English Literacy and Language Education. I have a Master’s Degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers Other Languages) from NYU, and a PhD in Literacy, Language, and Learning from Fordham University. I am fluent in both English and Mandarin Chinese. Studying and teaching English language and literacy has been my passion, and the reason that I pursued my graduate education in this area. I feel that my experience supervising my child’s education during the pandemic, combined with my background and training in literacy research and education, will allow me to particularly contribute to development of educational policy in this district, especially in the area of literacy education. If I am elected to this position, I can combine my first hand experience as a mom, with my knowledge and research in the field of literacy education, as well as access to my mentors at both the Fordham University Graduate School of Education, and the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, to help develop policies which foster literacy success among students in our district. It would be my honor and privilege to serve as a member of the District 2 Community Education Council. Sincerely, Yen-Ching Chuang
LEILA COLBERT	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M051	NO	NO	Hi, I am the mother of three New York City residents. My oldest is currently enrolled in public school, my middle child will start Kindergarten in 2021 and my youngest will join them in a few years. I'm very passionate about our schools and what we can do to help our kids, teachers and administrators. This has been a difficult year for everyone and I'm so impressed at the resilience of our kids and their teachers. I have served as on the board for our local non-profit parent cooperative preschool for several years. I feel that school and education are not separate entity from home and parents. We all need to work together and support one another for the greatest success.
MARIA COLE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M059	NO	NO	When my family emigrated to the US, I started 3rd grade at a public school in the Bronx, not knowing a word of English. There, I quickly picked it up thanks to the ESL group that made special field trips all around NYC. I credit my public schooling with leading me to an Ivy League education and continuing on to earn a Master's degree. The public education system in this great city is an invaluable public good for all families. This has become even more apparent in the past year. As my family gets ready to welcome our third child, I want to become involved with the D2 Education Council and work hard to ensure that all of our children continue to have the opportunities and resources to succeed and thrive.

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SHARON COLLINS	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M407	NO	NO	<p>Hello my name is Sharon Collins. I have two students in NYC public schools; one child in elementary school and one child in middle school. I have devoted my life to urban education. I currently reside in the beautiful community of Washington Heights in Upper Manhattan, and I am currently the Recording Secretary for the Community Education Council in District 6. I have spent the past two years advocating for students and families who reside in Upper Manhattan. Our CEC6 passed two resolutions in Autumn 2020; one resolution against the Mayor's unsafe reopening plan, and another resolution against the single opt-in period for hybrid instruction. I am currently drafting a resolution against the reopening of middle schools at the end of February 2021, as NYC remains an an extremely high risk level for COVID-19 transmission. I frequently attend ECC, Chancellor Town Halls and PEP Meetings. I ask questions of our top education officials, and make statements on the record advocating for community and student voice to be a part of public education and education policy decisions. This coronavirus pandemic has brought to light the vast inequities in our city, as well as the lack of community input into educational policy decisions that deeply impact school communities. Students, families, teachers and communities must be brought to the education decision-making table, and their experiences, voices, insights and desires must be heard and valued. My children both now attend out-of-district schools, so I am seeking to continue my educational advocacy on a different Community Education Council. I have leadership experience in my own community; in pre-pandemic times I co-chaired the annual Washington Heights Spring Egg Hunt and Harvest Festival committees. I was invited to be a guest speaker at the Education Writers' Association Higher Education Virtual Seminar in September 2020. I was a featured speaker on the "Going Test Optional: A Pandemic Response, or a Pilot Program?" panel. Issues that are very close to my heart are progressive education, dual-language schools, STEM and STEAM programs, and mentorship opportunities for high school students who become first generation college students. I was the first child in my family to attend and graduate from college. I have witnessed the transformative power of education from my own personal experience. Education has the potential to transform individual lives, families, neighborhoods, communities, society and our nation.</p>

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SHARON COLLINS	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	03M859	NO	YES	<p>Hello my name is Sharon Collins. I have two students in NYC public schools; one child in elementary school and one child in middle school. I have devoted my life to urban education. I currently reside in the beautiful community of Washington Heights in Upper Manhattan, and I am currently the Recording Secretary for the Community Education Council in District 6. I have spent the past two years advocating for students and families who reside in Upper Manhattan. Our CEC6 passed two resolutions in Autumn 2020; one resolution against the Mayor's unsafe reopening plan, and another resolution against the single opt-in period for hybrid instruction. I am currently drafting a resolution against the reopening of middle schools at the end of February 2021, as NYC remains an extremely high risk level for COVID-19 transmission. I frequently attend ECC, Chancellor Town Halls and PEP Meetings. I ask questions of our top education officials, and make statements on the record advocating for community and student voice to be a part of public education and education policy decisions. This coronavirus pandemic has brought to light the vast inequities in our city, as well as the lack of community input into educational policy decisions that deeply impact school communities. Students, families, teachers and communities must be brought to the education decision-making table, and their experiences, voices, insights and desires must be heard and valued. My children both now attend out-of-district schools, so I am seeking to continue my educational advocacy on a different Community Education Council. I have leadership experience in my own community; in pre-pandemic times I co-chaired the annual Washington Heights Spring Egg Hunt and Harvest Festival committees. I was invited to be a guest speaker at the Education Writers' Association Higher Education Virtual Seminar in September 2020. I was a featured speaker on the "Going Test Optional: A Pandemic Response, or a Pilot Program?" panel. Issues that are very close to my heart are progressive education, dual-language schools, STEM and STEAM programs, and mentorship opportunities for high school students who become first generation college students. I was the first child in my family to attend and graduate from college. I have witnessed the transformative power of education from my own personal experience. Education has the potential to transform individual lives, families, neighborhoods, communities, society and our nation.</p>
LINDSAY COOPERMAN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M077	NO	NO	<p>As a member of the PS77 PTA and a child who (pre-COVID) was recommended for IEP but has not benefited from the program yet, it is important to me to stay closely involved not only with my child's school and curriculum (with another child hopefully entering the public school system in two years) , but to have a voice in a changing education landscape at the city level. Issues that I have seen and should be addressed include (i) starting Kindergarten with a Spanish class, only to see it cancelled after 3 months due to a teacher relocation with no replacement offered, (ii) no music class this school year due to a sub-standard teacher last year with no replacement, (iii) the opportunity to influence emergency preparedness for future school closures and (iv) the ongoing discussion around the future of specialized education.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
KAUSHIK DAS	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	NO	NO	My name is Kaushik Das and I have two daughters in public school. My older daughter has been at her zoned school PS276, at a charter school, and at PS 33 which offers a district Gifted & Talented program. This has given me unique insight into what works well and what doesnâ€™t among various education systems within our public schools. I have frequently volunteered at my daughtersâ€™ schools but became more formally involved at PS33, initially to help raise funds for their annual spring event and auction. I later joined PS33â€™s School Leadership Team (SLT), where I served for nearly 2 years, most of that time as co-chair. As co-chair, I helped enact significant changes to the schoolâ€™s grading policy on multiple occasions and worked with its teachers, principal, and other parents to modify its Comprehensive Education Plan to enhance intervention and improve learning outcomes for specific minority, socioeconomic, and ELL student groups. Over the summer and fall, I was an active member of the schoolâ€™s reopening committee. Through it all, I strengthened cooperation and communication between the SLT, school administration, the PTA, CEC members, and the districtâ€™s superintendentâ€™s office. I am passionate about education and have been incredibly vocal in my advocacy. In the past year, I have attended and spoken at every single District 2 CEC Calendar meeting, nearly every Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) meeting, many Chancellorâ€™s Parent Advisory Council (CPAC) meetings, and the occasional City Council Educational Hearing. I was profoundly disappointed at the lack of meaningful engagement by the DOE with regard to admissions and grading policies. The majority of District 2, Manhattan, and New York City parents were outspoken in DOE â€œtown hallsâ€ to maintain admissions standards to academically rigorous middle schools, but the DOE disregarded you. District 2 families had no voice in the decision to remove District and Borough priority for high school admissions when there are already not enough high school seats for our district's 8th graders. It is my belief that the majority of District 2 parents (let alone Manhattan or NYC as a whole) do not approve of such actions, but are afraid to speak up against the loud but well-organized minority. I will be your voice. As the father of half-Indian, half-Hispanic daughters, I believe in striving for diversity in our schools while maintaining academic standards. I do not believe equity is served nor any minority group empowered by tearing down merit-based programs. I do not believe that attempts to diversify our schools can be successful without simultaneously addressing systemic issues like housing and wage inequality. I do not believe in divisive rhetoric that inherently pits racial groups against each other. I believe in expanding opportunities and special needs for all, whether those needs be G&T, ELL, IEP, physical disability, or just a solid education at your local school. I find it embarrassing that our nationsâ€™ education system routinely ranks poorly against other countries, and New York State and NYC DOE are no gems within the US either. Meanwhile, New York City spends more per student than any other city in the US. Frankly, as parents and taxpayers we deserve better. And as parents and parent leaders we deserve to be heard by the DOE, a claim they frequently make but do not deliver. I will do my utmost to get your voices heard and get your children the education that they deserve.
NICOLE DAVID	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M212	NO	NO	I am running for this position as a working mom balancing two kids in elementary school in the city. I currently serve as the treasurer of the PTA at their school, a position I have held for the past three years. I also come from a family of teachers so public school education and itâ€™s importance has always been a part of the conversation.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
MARICELLE DENNY	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	YES	NO	Thank you for the opportunity to run for an education council set. I am excited to have a chance to make an impact on NYC public schools and our children’s education and well-being. I have been in NYC for 15 years and I have observed how much our children and parents alike rely on our public school system and the wonderful staff and educators that work so hard every day. I’ve dedicated my career to working with financial services institutions, improving operations, process efficiencies and driving down cost. I would now love to use my skills from management and technical consulting to help our schools that benefit and impact our community.
GERARD DEVINE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	NO	NO	I would like to share some of my professional and personal activities, but I don’t want to suggest they are the best criteria for elected office. I think a candidate’s character and experiences are far better measures for elected office and what distinguishes truly matters. Shared experiences is also what ultimately unites a candidate with the people they serve. In my professional career I am a 20 + year senior lawyer managing a very large and diverse team of corporate lawyers at one of the biggest and most admired companies in the world. I have served as an elected town mayor. In my personal time I have served as coach for my son’s baseball team and daughter’s soccer team. I am actively involved with my church and charitable organizations offering services to the community. But because I want to serve on your Education Council I want to highlight a unique quality and perspective that I would bring to the office. I am a product of the NY public school system. Throughout my entire time in public school, I was poor, homeless, and mostly on my own. I had a parent that was incarcerated. My sister was forced to leave our family at 16 after becoming pregnant. I was a frequent resident at several welfare motels across Long Island and as far up as Plattsburgh NY. Starting 6th grade, I missed the first 75 days of school. In 7th grade I went to 5 different schools during the year depending on which welfare shelter I was assigned to at the time. While this was all going on, I was also caring for my mother who was incapable of caring for herself. So why is this important? It’s important because we have many students in our district who are currently suffering many of the hardships I did as a student. Poverty, parent incarceration, homelessness, etc. aren’t just crises in those other districts. It’s in our district too. What can I do to help the Education Council? I can offer ultimate empathy to our most vulnerable students and offer a unique insight and personal experience for the Education Council. But even more, I can share with you the secret of my success in breaking out of poverty, homelessness, etc. The escape for me had nothing to do with my average intelligence or limited athletic abilities. It had everything to do with the schoolteachers, guidance counselors, school nurses, librarians, coaches who invested in me. It had everything to do with the school resources I could access and the safety, stability, security, encouragement and hope I received at school. I want to share a recipe for success as taught to me by my teachers and administrators. I want to share all the school and after school programs that worked and the ones that did not. I want to share the perspective of a vulnerable, at risk student who had nowhere to turn but his school. Today I am blessed in my career, finances, health, marriage, children and family. When I connect all the dots of my journey here it does not lead back to a perfect SAT score (I don’t think I broke 1,000 Pts.), a 90 MPH fastball or pure luck. It all comes back to the teachers and schools that took the time to invest in me. I want to do all I can to pass that investment on to the kids like me who suffer in silence and just need a school environment to thrive and excel. I am asking for your vote to serve our community and our district. Thank you.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
LISA DUVAL-LINDO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M289	YES	NO	I have a son in the NYC Public School system with an IEP. As a mother I want to ensure that every child is getting the attention that he/she needs to thrive. It is very important that our children education is tailored to meet their needs. This way they can become healthy, happy, fulfilled, and kind productive individual in our society. Education is Key! qualify teachers in the classroom is Key! I'm a small business owner and I live in New York City.
INSHIRAH DUWORS	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	NO	NO	I would like to be considered for a seat on the CEC. I am a professional educator and began my teaching career in a fourth grade classroom. I stopped teaching after I had my second child and stayed home to raise my 3 children until the youngest went to pre-k. I went back to work teaching preschool and have since taken a leave to stay home with my children while they are in hybrid school. I have an 8th, 6th, and 4th grader who attend PS/IS 276. And I am a recent member of our schools SLT team as well as our Diversity and Inclusion collaborative. I am using this year that I am not in the classroom to pivot my passion for education towards policy and planning. I also am becoming more educated in the equity or lack thereof in our schools by participating with AQE (alliance for quality education) as an ED worrier. I think my love for education, understanding of the school system As both a teacher and parent would make me a good candidate for a CEC member. I believe that my next steps in education are to advocate for students who need more than they are given through our current public school system and those who have enough. And I have no doubt that I would learn a lot through this experience, while making great connections throughout our beautiful city all the while trying to make a difference for the children who attend school here.
INSHIRAH DUWORS	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	YES	NO	I would like to be considered for a seat on the CEC. I am a professional educator and began my teaching career in a fourth grade classroom. I stopped teaching after I had my second child and stayed home to raise my 3 children until the youngest went to pre-k. I went back to work teaching preschool and have since taken a leave to stay home with my children while they are in hybrid school. I have an 8th, 6th, and 4th grader who attend PS/IS 276. And I am a recent member of our schools SLT team as well as our Diversity and Inclusion collaborative. I am using this year that I am not in the classroom to pivot my passion for education towards policy and planning. I also am becoming more educated in the equity or lack thereof in our schools by participating with AQE (alliance for quality education) as an ED worrier. I think my love for education, understanding of the school system As both a teacher and parent would make me a good candidate for a CEC member. I believe that my next steps in education are to advocate for students who need more than they are given through our current public school system and those who have enough. And I have no doubt that I would learn a lot through this experience, while making great connections throughout our beautiful city all the while trying to make a difference for the children who attend school here.
SADE EASTMOND-BROWN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M343	NO	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Danyela Egorov	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M077	NO	NO	<p>My name is Danyela Souza Egorov and I am running for CEC at District 2. There are many reasons that make me passionate about running for this position. First, I am a parent. I have one son at PS77 and another one who will start kindergarten in 2 years. I am deeply invested in making sure the D2 public schools are excellent and serve all our students. Second, I know the power of education to transform lives. I am from Brazil and education has been my passport for a better life than the one my parents and grandparents had. I had access to great educational programs and that had a huge impact in my life. I have also seen how the wrong schools were damaging to friends and family members. I have worked with many NYC families who are not being served by their district school and had to look for other options. Third, I have 10 years of experience in education policy and the projects that I worked on make me believe that we can greatly improve our district schools. There is new research on how students learn, particularly how they learn to read and the importance of a rich curriculum to build knowledge at an early age. We need to ensure that our schools are informed about this research body and implementing these proven methods which will greatly benefit our most vulnerable students. I have worked creating public schools, supporting school leadership, and helping parents advocate for more options for their children’s education - I will bring this experience into my future role at CEC. Along with many parents, I have watched in dismay the D2 CEC meetings. When members of the CEC behave in an unprofessional manner, they disrespect our children and us. When members focus on their personal agendas, they not only waste our time but public resources that should be used to benefit our children. If we listen to what families want and support educators, I know our schools can do so much better than they are doing now. If I have the honor to serve on the CEC, here are my priorities: Ensure the CEC does its job - CEC members must fulfill its legal responsibility to review the district’s educational programs and assess their effect on student achievement Focus attention and resources on the schools that are serving the most vulnerable students in our district - 54% of our students are economically disadvantaged - how to support these students and their families should be the primary focus of the CEC Bring the science of learning to our classrooms - ensure that all our schools have access to the latest science on how students learn and all kids have access to a rich curriculum Expand accelerated learning and programs that families actually want to enroll their kids - let's work to make the G&T programs more diverse and more accessible while making sure that advanced learners are challenged and can continue enrolling in our public schools Reestablish civility and decorum to the CEC - let’s be adults and respectfully disagree about policies while we work towards solutions</p>
OSKAR ELMGART	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M343	NO	NO	
JULIANA ERHARDT	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M397	NO	NO	<p>I have two daughters (Laura and Isadora, 5 and 4 years old, respectively) and I’m starting to navigate the New York City’s public education system. Serving on an Education Council is important to me for a number of reasons, but moreover to assist other parents to communicate their concerns to the department of education and help to narrow the bridge between school’s administration and parents, that just like me want to understand better how decisions are made regarding the education of our kids and be part of the processes of implementing policies in a manner to guarantee their effectiveness and best impact to the students and the community.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
LILIBETH FELICIANO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M051	NO	NO	My name is Lilibeth Feliciano. I have twin girls in 4th grade at PS51 Elias Howe in Hells Kitchen. During my time at PS 51, I have actively been involved in both the school and community. I have served on the PTA Board as President for two years and I'm currently serving as the VP of Fundraising. I have made it a priority to actively participate in as many opportunities as possible to contribute to the decisions affecting our kids and community. I am passionately committed to helping every child receive the quality of education they deserve, and eliminating the disparities and inequalities that have existed for decades in New York City. Additionally, I love my community and neighborhood and I want to make it better for all of its residents. Most importantly, I feel it is essential to advocate and be a voice for the many voices who are not as often heard in all of these spaces.
LILIBETH FELICIANO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M051	YES	NO	My name is Lilibeth Feliciano. I have twin girls in 4th grade at PS51 Elias Howe in Hells Kitchen. During my time at PS 51, I have actively been involved in both the school and community. I have served on the PTA Board as President for two years and I'm currently serving as the VP of Fundraising. I have made it a priority to actively participate in as many opportunities as possible to contribute to the decisions affecting our kids and community. I am passionately committed to helping every child receive the quality of education they deserve, and eliminating the disparities and inequalities that have existed for decades in New York City. Additionally, I love my community and neighborhood and I want to make it better for all of its residents. Most importantly, I feel it is essential to advocate and be a voice for the many voices who are not as often heard in all of these spaces.
TAMARA FLANNAGAN DITMY	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M297	NO	NO	My name is Tamara Flannagan-Ditmyer and I am excited to add my voice to the ever changing landscape of the NYC school system. I am the proud parent of two boys, aged 17 and 12. I have served on 6 school PTA committees, beginning with an executive position at our preschool, where I chaired the auction committee for two years. I have served as the head of The Handy person Committee for 6 schools and look forward to continuing that role into the future. One of the greatest parts of being a handy woman is seeing the faces of little girls when I enter a school with my tools. I am a role model for girls who have never seen a woman wield a drill. I will carry their faces, filled with curiosity and wonder with me always. At my sons elementary school, I was a founding member of the very important and long overdue diversity committee. Knowledge is power. Having knowledge of all types of learners and their individual struggles will help us lead our schools forward with inclusion and graciousness towards all. My older son has an auditory processing disorder. I have been an engaged and active parent in the IEP system for 13 years. I have been a parent advocate for all who have needed advice or assistance in setting up the pathway to their child's IEP. Proudly, my IEP student is now receiving his college acceptance letters. I played an instrumental role in the "Fight for 51," after the DOE planned to leave school children in a, city block size, construction zone. We organized and succeeded in getting the student body moved to the Upper East Side until the construction was complete and the students returned to their brand new school. I look forward to serving our students, our parents and the greater community at large.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
TAMARA FLANNAGAN DITMY	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	03M479	YES	NO	My name is Tamara Flannagan-Ditmyer and I am excited to add my voice to the ever changing landscape of the NYC school system. I am the proud parent of two boys, aged 17 and 12. I have served on 6 school PTA committees, beginning with an executive position at our preschool, where I chaired the auction committee for two years. I have served as the head of The Handy person Committee for 6 schools and look forward to continuing that role into the future. One of the greatest parts of being a handy woman is seeing the faces of little girls when I enter a school with my tools. I am a role model for girls who have never seen a woman wield a drill. I will carry their faces, filled with curiosity and wonder with me always. At my sons elementary school, I was a founding member of the very important and long overdue diversity committee. Knowledge is power. Having knowledge of all types of learners and their individual struggles will help us lead our schools forward with inclusion and graciousness towards all. My older son has an auditory processing disorder. I have been an engaged and active parent in the IEP system for 13 years. I have been a parent advocate for all who have needed advice or assistance in setting up the pathway to their child's IEP. Proudly, my IEP student is now receiving his college acceptance letters. I played an instrumental role in the "Fight for 51," after the DOE planned to leave school children in a, city block size, construction zone. We organized and succeeded in getting the student body moved to the Upper East Side until the construction was complete and the students returned to their brand new school. I look forward to serving our students, our parents and the greater community at large.
Josephine Flores	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M422	NO	NO	The reason I am applying is because I am an educator and a parent. I want to change policy and it starts with understanding the foundation. I have the passion to make a difference. Passion for teaching and relationship building is important. Getting to know my families is paramount, the best way to build relationships is by getting to know who they are and tailoring my workshops and activity based on the way they learn best. I always meet my students and families where they are and find activities that are engaging and purposeful. My passion comes from seeing too many underserved students not receive quality education, due to not having quality teachers. I want to change that, I am that educator and a parent that has the passion and drive to ensure all my students and families feel safe and comfortable within my learning environment. I go above and beyond to meet my students where they are and tailor my lesson based on their learning needs. I want to assist people and families in providing them with the best education, and advocacy. As an educator and parent, I do believe that I can make a difference and uniquely advocate for vulnerable populations or those who cannot do so themselves.

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Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
BENOIT GEORGES	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M167	NO	YES	Our family arrived in the US two years ago with two kids aged 12 and 13. Being a parent of an ELL is always challenging, and the Covid has made it even more. We really enjoyed the ELL program at the beginning, but based on our personal experience we think it deserves some improvements, including : - In-school learning : for kids coming from other countries, not being in school or being only 1 day/week is a challenging, because their social life mostly depends on people they will meet in school. So the ENL program should be prioritized for in school. - HS applications : the lack of grades in 6th and 7th grades creates a disadvantage for students who started their curriculum outside of the US. And the HS system, why various strategies, is very challenging for foreign families. I will advocate for this topics, and for all solutions aimed at improving the inclusion of students coming from other countries, because their diversity should be viewed as a wonderful asset for all the education community.
TARA GREEIDGE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M104	NO	NO	I am a registered nurse at memorial sloan cancer center, I have 2 daughters, one in college and a seventh grader, I would like to be involve in the future of learning not only for my kid, but the kids in my community. I have been a parent of the public school system for over a decade and I would like to be apart of the team that will bring about changes to benefit our kids, not only in our community, but also in the city. I am thanking you in advance for allowing me to be part of this council
EMILY GREYTAK	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M040	NO	NO	Hi! Iâ€™m Emily Greytak, the parent of a 5th grade student and a 13 year resident of District 2. Iâ€™ve witnessed many wonderful things about our schools, and Iâ€™ve seen firsthand how parent engagement can really make a difference. As the pandemic has changed education, Iâ€™m continually inspired by the patience, flexibility, and dedication of the teachers, staff, students, and parents. Iâ€™m also heartened as I see more NYC schools directly take up the issues of the day, and particularly racial injustice. But as much as weâ€™ve made strides, I know thereâ€™s more we can do, and I want to be a part of helping our public schools rise to the challenge. If I was elected to CEC, one of my priorities would be fostering parent engagement. As a single parent for much of my sonâ€™s time in school, I often found it challenging to participate in the PTA and other events. I know how difficult it is balancing work and taking care of children in the best of circumstances, let alone when facing additional barriers. I want to help all families have a voice, particularly those who have found existing avenues less welcoming or accessible, including LGBTQ families, foster families, single-parent families, and immigrant families. Itâ€™s critical to have many different points of view and experience on the CEC. I can bring the important perspective of a parent and education advocate who is outside the PTA and School Leadership Team system. In addition to my experience as a parent, I have a graduate degree in education and have spent my career working for education and civil rights organizations as a researcher, educator, and advocate. I have a track-record of working collaboratively with people with different perspectives. Iâ€™m also very dependable, friendly, and value transparency and accountability. Some of my key priorities are: divesting from school policing and reinvesting in effective socio-emotional supports; and ensuring racial, gender, and economic equity across and within schools. I would very much look forward to working with other Council members to improve NYC public schools for all our families. Come talk to me - Iâ€™d love to hear your concerns and ideas. Thank you for your consideration!

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Marina Guedouar	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M158	NO	NO	I have taught young musical talents for more then 10 years, helping to organize charity events, concerts, foundrasers for children in need. I hold M.A.teaching certificate USCES evaluated, also SEN certificate. Since 2016 I volunteered as a preschool children Reggio Emilia educator in a group of 13 children aged 13-24mo, and ran free community classes through 2018. We actively volunteered with p.s.158 class and school activities since 2019.
Shonali Gupta	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	NO	NO	My objective while running for the CEC is to leverage my skills, experience and time to continue to add value to my District and Special Education community. I have served as Treasurer of my school PTA for the last two years. Having worked with the Executive Board, this time gave me a deep insight into the workings of the educational system, the challenges that schools face and how funding works. This experience strengthened my resolve to work together with key stakeholders to advocate for our schools and communities to provide for the resources we need and be able to give every child in New York City a quality education, based on each child's unique needs. I am actively involved in my local community. I serve on the Board of my condominium building, giving a voice to thousands of neighbors. I firmly believe in giving back to the environment and preserving our neighborhood, which is why I also volunteer at our Community garden and work as a Horticulture volunteer with the local parks authority. Outside of my volunteer activities, professionally, I work in Financial services and have lived and worked in Manhattan for the last 16 years. Such roles have helped me develop a wide and strong network across people in many different fields of work. I believe this can add immense value while working as part of the CEC. I have two children at our neighborhood school and am actively involved in both of their individual class communities. I am a champion of diversity at our school and have helped organize parent workshops and talks. I serve on the school's Technology committee where I work together with a core group of teachers and other parents to help develop an engineering and design curriculum to provide enrichment to our students. We are working not only to support the school's existing technology needs but also to challenge the boundaries and see what more we can include in our STEM curriculum. Thank you for considering me for a seat on the Educational Council. I look forward to working with a group of esteemed and well regarded council members.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Shonali Gupta	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	YES	NO	My objective while running for the CEC is to leverage my skills, experience and time to continue to add value to my District and Special Education community. I have served as Treasurer of my school PTA for the last two years. Having worked with the Executive Board, this time gave me a deep insight into the workings of the educational system, the challenges that schools face and how funding works. This experience strengthened my resolve to work together with key stakeholders to advocate for our schools and communities to provide for the resources we need and be able to give every child in New York City a quality education, based on each child's unique needs. I am actively involved in my local community. I serve on the Board of my condominium building, giving a voice to thousands of neighbors. I firmly believe in giving back to the environment and preserving our neighborhood, which is why I also volunteer at our Community garden and work as a Horticulture volunteer with the local parks authority. Outside of my volunteer activities, professionally, I work in Financial services and have lived and worked in Manhattan for the last 16 years. Such roles have helped me develop a wide and strong network across people in many different fields of work. I believe this can add immense value while working as part of the CEC. I have two children at our neighborhood school and am actively involved in both of their individual class communities. I am a champion of diversity at our school and have helped organize parent workshops and talks. I serve on the school's Technology committee where I work together with a core group of teachers and other parents to help develop an engineering and design curriculum to provide enrichment to our students. We are working not only to support the school's existing technology needs but also to challenge the boundaries and see what more we can include in our STEM curriculum. Thank you for considering me for a seat on the Educational Council. I look forward to working with a group of esteemed and well regarded council members.
SOPHIA GURLEY	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M347	YES	NO	My Name is Sophia Gurley. I have experience working with children who have educational issues within the school system. I also have a child who has an IEP. My role in the council will be to get children as their families proper services needed for their specialty. I'm also looking to help create or recreate more sustainable creative programs within our school systems for the children, regenerate after school programs and fresh school lunches. I also would like to recreate the PTA systems to operate with the low income families to help with issues outside of the school that makes it difficult to get their child to school on time, with a successful attendance system. My reason for applying is to better assist families in need and create a system so that all of our children recognize why it is important to have an education.
ROB HARPER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M343	YES	NO	I am a single parent (dad) navigating through a school system to make certain my son gets the quality education he deserves. I must say, never in a million years did I think I would be doing this by myself, but such is the case. That said, I am sure there are other parents faced with similar challenges. I want to work with them and empower them to find the voice to speak up for their sons and daughters and be heard. Working together we can ensure our future generation is well educated.

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CONNIE HARRIGAN WEBSTE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M041	NO	NO	As Education evolves due to technology advancement and rising health concerns; our education system should also be tailored to suit those developments. Serving on the Education Council would give me a voice to make meaningful contributions to the way our children learn and grow. As parents, we are also learning while our children learn with all the new applications and technological advancements. I would like to see more parent/student learning activities as this can be an effective way in which parents can assist their children with special projects as well as home work. Our Education system has endless possibilities with contributions from parents like myself, who are already experiencing the way the system works and the changes that are necessary for a better tomorrow.
EMILY HELLSTROM	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M260	NO	NO	I am running for CEC2 to help ensure our public schools remain vibrant, thriving institutions, welcoming and educating every student who enters their doors as we reopen after this crisis. If elected, I will continue advocating for schools to be fully funded, not saddled with undeserved debt; push for broader use of structured literacy to ensure all children can learn to read on grade level; and support families as founder and chair of the Students with Disabilities (SwD) Committee. Since its inception two years ago, I have held monthly SwD meetings, bringing parents together in a supportive environment to foster a sense of community, share advice, and advocate, as they navigate the complex IEP process. I often have DOE staff and other experts attend to provide useful information and open a dialogue for change. I write newsletters with resources and tips and also organize panel discussions such as, "Supporting Your Middle-School Child with ADHD" and "Dyslexia Legislation" and "ASD Nest in District 2" among others. I have spent the last 2 years advocating for early reading and writing instruction based in science, called "structured literacy", proven to be the most effective way to teach all children to become skilled readers. Over the past four years on the council, I have gained a nuanced understanding of how it functions, working with fellow members to champion underrepresented voices and raise awareness of critical issues, and this year was elected Vice President. In my previous term, I created the Community Engagement Committee, organizing council-wide programming such as a budget primer, a "Panel on Special Education" and a "How to Build Resilience in Children" workshop. I have a long proud history of public school education, attending NJ public schools myself. I have three kids: twin boys in 7th grade, one at Clinton, the other at Windward, a special education school for children with dyslexia and language-based learning disabilities and my daughter attends 4th grade at PS 343, the Peck Slip School. This past year, my child, usually a very strong student, struggled deeply with remote learning; a humbling experience that taught me how challenging the years ahead will be for so many children. I served as the co-president of the Peck Slip PTA for three years, former PTA vice president for one year, and SLT member for two years. In addition, I was deeply involved in the second phase of the 75 Morton Community Alliance, a group of parents helping to set the school on a path to success. As Co-Chair of the 75MCA, I led outreach and communications for numerous community envisioning meetings for the school. I fostered relationships with a wide range of schools across the district helping to create an open forum for dialogue about the future of the school. Outside the CEC, I am part of a school team creating the first DOE public school for children with dyslexia and struggling readers. I recently helped found Children First, a grassroots organization created to protect children at two schools in the Historic Seaport located next to a development site in the New York State Brownfield Program which could expose children to lead, mercury, and other harmful toxins present in the soil. I have lived in District 2 for 25 years and my ties to my community go beyond education. I serve as the vice president of the Soho Broadway Initiative, on the board of Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden, and a member of Friends of De Salvo, successfully securing funding for the redesign and revitalization of that playground. It is this kind of

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EMILY HELLSTROM	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M343	NO	NO	<p>I am running for CEC2 to help ensure our public schools remain vibrant, thriving institutions, welcoming and educating every student who enters their doors as we reopen after this crisis. If elected, I will continue advocating for schools to be fully funded, not saddled with undeserved debt; push for broader use of structured literacy to ensure all children can learn to read on grade level; and support families as founder and chair of the Students with Disabilities (SwD) Committee. Since its inception two years ago, I have held monthly SwD meetings, bringing parents together in a supportive environment to foster a sense of community, share advice, and advocate, as they navigate the complex IEP process. I often have DOE staff and other experts attend to provide useful information and open a dialogue for change. I write newsletters with resources and tips and also organize panel discussions such as, “Supporting Your Middle-School Child with ADHD” and “Dyslexia Legislation” and “ASD Nest in District 2” among others. I have spent the last 2 years advocating for early reading and writing instruction based in science, called “structured literacy”, proven to be the most effective way to teach all children to become skilled readers. Over the past four years on the council, I have gained a nuanced understanding of how it functions, working with fellow members to champion underrepresented voices and raise awareness of critical issues, and this year was elected Vice President. In my previous term, I created the Community Engagement Committee, organizing council-wide programming such as a budget primer, a “Panel on Special Education” and a “How to Build Resilience in Children” workshop. I have a long proud history of public school education, attending NJ public schools myself. I have three kids: twin boys in 7th grade, one at Clinton, the other at Windward, a special education school for children with dyslexia and language-based learning disabilities and my daughter attends 4th grade at PS 343, the Peck Slip School. This past year, my child, usually a very strong student, struggled deeply with remote learning; a humbling experience that taught me how challenging the years ahead will be for so many children. I served as the co-president of the Peck Slip PTA for three years, former PTA vice president for one year, and SLT member for two years. In addition, I was deeply involved in the second phase of the 75 Morton Community Alliance, a group of parents helping to set the school on a path to success. As Co-Chair of the 75MCA, I led outreach and communications for numerous community envisioning meetings for the school. I fostered relationships with a wide range of schools across the district helping to create an open forum for dialogue about the future of the school. Outside the CEC, I am part of a school team creating the first DOE public school for children with dyslexia and struggling readers. I recently helped found Children First, a grassroots organization created to protect children at two schools in the Historic Seaport located next to a development site in the New York State Brownfield Program which could expose children to lead, mercury, and other harmful toxins present in the soil. I have lived in District 2 for 25 years and my ties to my community go beyond education. I serve as the vice president of the Soho Broadway Initiative, on the board of Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden, and a member of Friends of De Salvo, successfully securing funding for the redesign and revitalization of that playground. It is this kind of</p>

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ANDREW HOVELSON	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M212	NO	NO	Over the last decade I have had the privilege of mentoring, coaching, and teaching youth throughout NYC. I graduated with a full scholarship to NYU Tisch School of the Arts, am married to a wonderful woman who has taught dance and creative movement for the last 20 years both independently and for various organizations. We live in Hell's Kitchen with three young sons, our eldest two of school age. For the last 5 years I owned and operated one of the largest and fastest growing independent after-school enrichment companies in NYC, serving over 100 schools, and over 10,000 students during our time. I am passionate about children, education, and parents. I am seasoned in communicating, negotiating, and calling to action administrators, and educators. As a member of 2 performing artist unions, I also understand the unique challenges and opportunities that collective bargaining agreements provide. Our families, students, parents, administrators, and educators continue to go through unprecedented and challenging times. I truly believe that now, more than ever, parents and families' voices need to be heard in policy making. We need to be able to effectively communicate what is happening at home, and transfer those frustrations and successes into actionable change for those who make decisions on events that inevitably dictate our day-to-day life inside our apartments across NYC. Policy needs to be created with a human-first focus, and in our case, there could be no more important humans than our own children. I have the experience in negotiations with various Department of Education individuals, PTA members, and Principals. I am also experienced in getting initiatives and programs pushed through DOE red tape in order to positively affect the most important generation, our students. I hope to be catalyst for change, communication, and actionable results as a fellow parent on the Education Council.
Wendi Huestis	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M040	YES	NO	
JOAN HULL	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M340	NO	NO	It would be my honor to serve on an Education Council. Although this is my son's first year as part of the NYC Public School system, I have lived and worked in this amazing city for over 21 years. I love NYC and want to do everything I can to help move it forward. As a mother, I believe one of the most powerful ways to do that is through supporting the education system. I am currently the Treasurer of the PS 340 PTA. I chose this role because of my background in finance. It is a very challenging financial time for our school and I want to continue to do everything I can to fundraise and bring support to all areas of the school that need it. It would be a great privilege for me to expand this effort to other areas of the city's education system as a member of an Education Council. I appreciate your consideration. Thank you for everything you do for our children. Respectfully, Joan Hull

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MILENA IVANOVA	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M167	NO	YES	While I have regularly volunteered at my two childrens' schools at fundraising events, lunch clubs and as a guest-speaker, I haven't had the chance to serve on PTA, mostly because as a relatively new immigrant I have been very busy making ends meet. However, I am very motivated in working for desegregation of New York's public schools so they better represent the amazing diversity of the city. New York is a microcosmos of the world but its schools are predominantly homogeneous. Â Diversifying schools can start by raising awareness about the educational opportunities that are available and providing a fair chance and access to resources for all students from the outset of their learning experience, regardless of race, religion, and family income. In my nearly a decade in New York, I've seen a consistent pattern of how quality public education is tight to money. PTAs of public schools in affluent neighborhoods fundraise around the clock thus providing additional programs for children who are already ahead of the curve. Having a tutor, like having a dog, has become a question of prestige and a class marker. For parents who can afford it, tutoring is like a shadow of regular education and the obligatory path to the most prestigious high schools. Education Councils can join efforts with DOE to assess education programs in different districts and applying the principle of equity in improving educational quality and student achievement; give more to those who have less. Educational Councils can help change the game by raising awareness about the most rigorous public educational offerings, encourage students from underserved communities to apply and provide access to quality resources for elementary and middle levels so that student is economically disadvantaged neighborhoods aren't dependent on tutoring. For example, when it comes to the heated debate around the SHSAT, removing the test solely won't solve the desegregation problem, improving early education standards for all students, regardless of census tracts and demographics, will. Finally, I am a member of aÂ community garden, which is a vibrant community space for various educational, cultural and civicactivities, and sometimes a great exercise in citizenry â€ from commissioning a mural to saving a HPD Land campaign and actions in response to the rezoning. This membership gives me a chance to participate in shaping the wellbeing of my neighborhood. In a similar way, I'd love the chance to have a modest contribution to an educational reform that will diversify the schools to better mirror the soul of the city.
KAREN JACKSON	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M001	NO	NO	As a single parent, I view partnership with the school system as crucial. I am raising a bi-racial, emergent bilingual child in a diverse and complex city, while managing my own career, and I trust the public schools to educate, nurture and foster the creativity of my daughter through every stage of her education. My daughter and I are active community members who volunteer and partner with community organizations for culturally enriching extra-curricular activities and community service.
JEANETTE JONES	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M340	YES	NO	Iâ€™m a parent with 3 decades of involvement. Having a 33y/o, 25y/o, 19y/o and a 7y/o who Iâ€™ve navigated the madness of the DOE waters. Iâ€™ve made mistakes but have learned through them. I will definitely be a advocate for students and parents and I believe my people skills will allow me to negotiate with all that may need help. We are making progress but yet have hurdles to cross. We need equality for all students, be they from wherever, have not or or haves, learning challenged or brilliant with proper support and policies all the children will prosper.

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Jeremy Kagan	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M041	NO	NO	As a family with 3 children in New York City public schools, we spend a lot of time navigating the system to find the best options for our kids. We’ve tried to take the tests, pursue the opportunities, tour the schools and generally do our best to navigate. After COVID and the challenges of this year of remote and hybrid learning, it’s an even bigger challenge to navigate towards the right path for each child. That’s why I am running for office. I believe that at this critical juncture, maintaining a clear path to success for all students in an environment of change is the number one challenge we face. With enrollment and budget crises always looming, we need to preserve the programs that are working, and expand the opportunities for all students. Investing in our students means every student to their full potential – not eliminating standards and selection to bring everyone down together, but adding resources and critical support when communities and kids need help to rise up. In a time when families are facing tough choices about keeping their kids in the public school system at all, we need to focus on expanding pathways to success. My background is much like New York itself: I am a lifelong New Yorker myself, but with a spouse who is an immigrant. My kids were born in the same hospital in Manhattan I was. We live and work downtown and believe that the schools are the engine that drives families living and thriving in the city. I am also an educator and entrepreneur – a professor at Columbia, Cornell, and NYU, and a mentor at startup accelerators here in the city. Creating new opportunities and working with limited resources is a focus I hope to extend to the challenges we face together.
Jeremy Kagan	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M260	NO	NO	As a family with 3 children in New York City public schools, we spend a lot of time navigating the system to find the best options for our kids. We’ve tried to take the tests, pursue the opportunities, tour the schools and generally do our best to navigate. After COVID and the challenges of this year of remote and hybrid learning, it’s an even bigger challenge to navigate towards the right path for each child. That’s why I am running for office. I believe that at this critical juncture, maintaining a clear path to success for all students in an environment of change is the number one challenge we face. With enrollment and budget crises always looming, we need to preserve the programs that are working, and expand the opportunities for all students. Investing in our students means every student to their full potential – not eliminating standards and selection to bring everyone down together, but adding resources and critical support when communities and kids need help to rise up. In a time when families are facing tough choices about keeping their kids in the public school system at all, we need to focus on expanding pathways to success. My background is much like New York itself: I am a lifelong New Yorker myself, but with a spouse who is an immigrant. My kids were born in the same hospital in Manhattan I was. We live and work downtown and believe that the schools are the engine that drives families living and thriving in the city. I am also an educator and entrepreneur – a professor at Columbia, Cornell, and NYU, and a mentor at startup accelerators here in the city. Creating new opportunities and working with limited resources is a focus I hope to extend to the challenges we face together.

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ROBIN KELLEHER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M033	NO	NO	<p>Hi! Iâ€™m Robin Kelleher, mother of three boys, ages 7, 9 and 11. We live and love life downtown in TriBeCa. Our second life is due north, in the neighborhood of Chelsea, where all my boys attend school at PS 33 and Lab Middle School.Â Weâ€™ve been members of the PS 33 family for seven years, and Iâ€™m fortunate to be serving a second term as Co-President of the PTA. While all parent advocates work to represent the best interests of student communities, it was my work within the PTA that allowed me to fully appreciate the role parent leaders can play in improving schools and shaping educational policy. In my time on the PS 33 PTA, IÂ helped build a new playground, expanded our teaching assistant program, hired a reading specialist, built out our Chess program, increased community events and expanded our PTA Executive Board to include a more diverse team, representative of our school community.Â As Co-President of the PTA, I represented parents on PS 33's School Leadership Team.Â The SLT advocated for and helped institute more equitable grading periods, and for struggling children, gave teachers access to a holistic approach to grading. Despite the challenges of starting a new school during the pandemic, my oldest son has enjoyed the handful of times he has gone to the Lab campus, and I became an active member of the PA. The only silver lining of the pandemic has been the increased access to DOE and district meetings, at which I have attended and spoken, to advocate for children on the district and citywide level. I believe parent involvement is crucial to a student's success, but not every parent can be as involved as they like, which is why the role of a CEC member is crucial.Â CEC members themselves are "parent representatives", but, more critically, they represent the concerns and interests of otherÂ parents. If elected, I pledge to listen to the voices of District 2 families above all others, and always put the consensus of D2 viewpoints above my own and always prioritize the consensus of D2 viewpoints. Covid has forced us all to think about what it means to be a parent and a teacher and what a "school" is and does. More than ever, we must recognize that ALL children are unique, with gifts that need to be identified and appropriately embraced to create an opportunity for learning that will nurture their strengths and nourish their weaknesses. No child deserves less based on how they learn. Thank you for taking the time to review my personal statement, and I look forward to seeing parents at the Candidate Forum!</p>

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ROBIN KELLEHER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M312	NO	NO	<p>Hi! Iâ€™m Robin Kelleher, mother of three boys, ages 7, 9 and 11. We live and love life downtown in TriBeCa. Our second life is due north, in the neighborhood of Chelsea, where all my boys attend school at PS 33 and Lab Middle School.Â Weâ€™ve been members of the PS 33 family for seven years, and Iâ€™m fortunate to be serving a second term as Co-President of the PTA. While all parent advocates work to represent the best interests of student communities, it was my work within the PTA that allowed me to fully appreciate the role parent leaders can play in improving schools and shaping educational policy. In my time on the PS 33 PTA, IÂ helped build a new playground, expanded our teaching assistant program, hired a reading specialist, built out our Chess program, increased community events and expanded our PTA Executive Board to include a more diverse team, representative of our school community.Â As Co-President of the PTA, I represented parents on PS 33's School Leadership Team.Â The SLT advocated for and helped institute more equitable grading periods, and for struggling children, gave teachers access to a holistic approach to grading. Despite the challenges of starting a new school during the pandemic, my oldest son has enjoyed the handful of times he has gone to the Lab campus, and I became an active member of the PA. The only silver lining of the pandemic has been the increased access to DOE and district meetings, at which I have attended and spoken, to advocate for children on the district and citywide level. I believe parent involvement is crucial to a student's success, but not every parent can be as involved as they like, which is why the role of a CEC member is crucial.Â CEC members themselves are "parent representatives", but, more critically, they represent the concerns and interests of otherÂ parents. If elected, I pledge to listen to the voices of District 2 families above all others, and always put the consensus of D2 viewpoints above my own and always prioritize the consensus of D2 viewpoints. Covid has forced us all to think about what it means to be a parent and a teacher and what a "school" is and does. More than ever, we must recognize that ALL children are unique, with gifts that need to be identified and appropriately embraced to create an opportunity for learning that will nurture their strengths and nourish their weaknesses. No child deserves less based on how they learn. Thank you for taking the time to review my personal statement, and I look forward to seeing parents at the Candidate Forum!</p>
MAAYAN KESHETG	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M267	YES	NO	<p>I am a working mother of a child with an IEP. I am a strong supporter of in-person learning for all children, in particular children in special education programs and with IEPs. Children at a young age stand to benefit immensely from school IEP services and the strong teachers of NYC. I will fight for our children to have access to the best possible resources and staffing to learn and flourish in New York City public schools.</p>

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Jane Kingseed	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M297	NO	NO	As a parent with 2 children in the NYC public school system, I feel parents must play an important role in education. This has, undoubtedly, been one of the most difficult years for the nation's school system, parents and children. I hope to use my time, talents and life experience to help the schools gain traction and open back up better than ever. If chosen for this role, I plan to listen to other parents carefully, respect teachers and administrators and make sure our children are prepared for the future. I've lived in NYC for 21 years, my children have attended public school throughout their existence. I have worked at CNN, Bloomberg and am now a media entrepreneur. I am also involved in emerging technologies such as blockchain, AI, etc and would be in a position to introduce these topics and partnerships at NYC schools. In summary, I believe in this city and the future of our nation and would be honored to contribute to that.
ROBERT KLINE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M040	NO	NO	I am the parent of two (2) New York city public school students. One elementary and one high school. While I have been generally satisfied about our school system, I believe there is a lot of room and potential, with parental infusion, for improvement. I have been through the whole process in the system with my children's age span and share all your concerns. Why not make our system better? As an education council participant, I will work towards making our education system more dynamic, more robust, and best of all, beneficial for all.
ROBERT KLINE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M411	YES	NO	I am the parent of two (2) New York city public school students. One elementary and one high school. While I have been generally satisfied about our school system, I believe there is a lot of room and potential, with parental infusion, for improvement. I have been through the whole process in the system with my children's age span and share all your concerns. Why not make our system better? As an education council participant, I will work towards making our education system more dynamic, more robust, and best of all, beneficial for all.
Kyle Kolich	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M183	NO	NO	At my current employer I started up our company's community outreach program for the New York office. This was before COVID, but we participated in neighborhood outreach programs like working at soup kitchens for the homeless, donating turkey programs, fundraising activities toy drives for Christmas and managing the fountain work's budget. My family just recently moved to the upper east side, so we are looking to become more involved with this neighborhood and P.S. 183.
JING MING KONG	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M124	NO	NO	As a graduate of the NYC public school system and a parent with children currently enrolled in NYC public schools I am well versed in both the strengths of the NYC school system with its diverse student body and also its weakness such as the lack of resources for teachers, difficulty communicating with immigrant parents, and families that struggle financially to support our students. Members of the Education Council should find ways to promote learning both in the classroom, after school, and at home. Parental engagement, responsibility, and accountability and partnering with our principals and teachers will be the best way to foster the best environment for our students.

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CHIEN KWOK	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M111	NO	NO	<p>CHIEN KWOK District 2 CEC Candidate I am running for the CEC to help improve public education to meet the needs of every student. Our NYC education system has failed to educate most of our students even before the Covid pandemic. Now even more students, especially the most vulnerable ones, have fallen further behind. We need a sense of urgency to provide a high quality, appropriately funded and supported education that will lead to academic excellence and socioeconomic advancement for all students. I am an Asian-American immigrant who grew up in NYC. I am married and the proud parent of two children in NYC public schools in G&T and at an academically screened middle school. I sought diversity and academic challenge at Brooklyn Technical High School where more than 50% of the students were Black and Hispanic. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree from NYU and an MBA from Northwestern University. I have 15 years of experience in IT in the global financial services industry in Asia and US. I am also a licensed teacher with elementary to high school classroom experience. I find unacceptable that gifted, honors and SP programs were cut over the past 20 years which stymied decades of educational progress in disadvantaged communities and significantly contributed to loss of Black and Hispanic students in Specialized High Schools. I am currently in second term as PS 111 PTA co-president and was SLT member where I led an effort to improve educational outcomes and social emotional learning through professional development for teachers and a structured recess program. I also led the challenge to a co-location plan that ignored need for therapy rooms for students with disabilities and got the DOE to build therapy rooms. I am also a founding member of PLACE NYC, a parent-led education advocacy group seeking to improve and expand access to accelerated & advanced academics to support learning needs of students regardless of zip code or income. Our most urgent need is to address the learning loss and social and emotional impact due to the Covid pandemic. We need remedial academic programs whether after school, on weekends or during summer. We need additional guidance counselors to support our students as they return to school. I believe the key to education success starts in the earliest years in elementary school. Each student needs to be supported with appropriate and rigorous academics and nurtured in safe and warm learning environments. Elementary students need free after-school programs in academics, arts, music and sports that also allows parents to advance their careers without paying for childcare. Students need to have tailored academic and other supports to overcome the large differences in grade level proficiencies that show up as early as 3rd grade. Disruptive students must be supported without impacting the learning of other students. High school students must not only graduate at higher rates but also with greater academic achievement that will enable them to succeed in college and careers. Students with disabilities must be supported. If not, they need alternatives funded by the DOE. Students with advanced learning needs must be identified and supported in local schools. English Language Learner and Dual Language programs must be provided at the earliest ages when language acquisition is strongest. We must improve support for students in temporary housing where school may provide the most stability in their lives. We must build a culture of mutual accountability and responsibility.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
CHIEN KWOK	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M260	NO	NO	<p>CHIEN KWOK District 2 CEC Candidate I am running for the CEC to help improve public education to meet the needs of every student. Our NYC education system has failed to educate most of our students even before the Covid pandemic. Now even more students, especially the most vulnerable ones, have fallen further behind. We need a sense of urgency to provide a high quality, appropriately funded and supported education that will lead to academic excellence and socioeconomic advancement for all students. I am an Asian-American immigrant who grew up in NYC. I'm married and the proud parent of two children in NYC public schools in G&T and at an academically screened middle school. I sought diversity and academic challenge at Brooklyn Technical High School where more than 50% of the students were Black and Hispanic. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree from NYU and an MBA from Northwestern University. I have 15 years of experience in IT in the global financial services industry in Asia and US. I am also a licensed teacher with elementary to high school classroom experience. I find unacceptable that gifted, honors and SP programs were cut over the past 20 years which stymied decades of educational progress in disadvantaged communities and significantly contributed to loss of Black and Hispanic students in Specialized High Schools. I am currently in second term as PS 111 PTA co-president and was SLT member where I led an effort to improve educational outcomes and social emotional learning through professional development for teachers and a structured recess program. I also led the challenge to a co-location plan that ignored need for therapy rooms for students with disabilities and got the DOE to build therapy rooms. I am also a founding member of PLACE NYC, a parent-led education advocacy group seeking to improve and expand access to accelerated & advanced academics to support learning needs of students regardless of zip code or income. Our most urgent need is to address the learning loss and social and emotional impact due to the Covid pandemic. We need remedial academic programs whether after school, on weekends or during summer. We need additional guidance counselors to support our students as they return to school. I believe the key to education success starts in the earliest years in elementary school. Each student needs to be supported with appropriate and rigorous academics and nurtured in safe and warm learning environments. Elementary students need free after-school programs in academics, arts, music and sports that also allows parents to advance their careers without paying for childcare. Students need to have tailored academic and other supports to overcome the large differences in grade level proficiencies that show up as early as 3rd grade. Disruptive students must be supported without impacting the learning of other students. High school students must not only graduate at higher rates but also with greater academic achievement that will enable them to succeed in college and careers. Students with disabilities must be supported. If not, they need alternatives funded by the DOE. Students with advanced learning needs must be identified and supported in local schools. English Language Learner and Dual Language programs must be provided at the earliest ages when language acquisition is strongest. We must improve support for students in temporary housing where school may provide the most stability in their lives. We must build a culture of mutual accountability and responsibility.</p>
SANDRA LANDIVAR	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M212	NO	NO	<p>Hello, my name is Sandra Landivar. My daughter Tiffany Landivar is in P. S. 212, Midtown West School on W 48th Street. My son Ryan Landivar is in Baruch High School on the East side. I'm running for an Education Council position as a CDC representative because I want to be able to make a difference and be able to advocate for my children and be able to determine how the children's education will be run for the next two years. I'm currently involved in the Social Studies Committee, and part of the PTA Committee in P. S. 212. I believe I am qualified for the position as a CDC representative. Please consider me for this position. I will not let you down. Thank you for consideration.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
SANDRA LANDIVAR	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M411	YES	NO	Hello, my name is Sandra Landivar. My daughter Tiffany Landivar is in P. S. 212, Midtown West School on W 48th Street. My son Ryan Landivar is in Baruch High School on the East side. I'm running for an Education Council position as a CDC representative because I want to be able to make a difference and be able to advocate for my children and be able to determine how the children's education will be run for the next two years. I'm currently involved in the Social Studies Committee, and part of the PTA Committee in P. S. 212. I believe I am qualified for the position as a CDC representative. Please consider me for this position. I will not let you down. Thank you for consideration.
STEPHANE LAUTNER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M527	NO	NO	I am interested in serving & giving back to my community as a potential member of Community Education Council for District 2. I live on the Upper East Side with my two children, both currently enrolled in their local school. I have been on my school's PTA Executive Board for two years, as well as on the School Leadership Team (and am currently SLT Co-Chair). As part of those experiences & in response to school community demand, I spear-headed a successful effort to bring in two foreign language after-school programs to introduce both French & Spanish to the children. Through advocacy with a group of 150 parents as part of the District 2 Dual Language Initiative, we have opened with DOE support a Dual Language UPK. Outside of my school involvement, I am an active member of my Condominium Board. I find that collaborative, team-based approaches and active listening to take input from all stake-holders will help to achieve best possible results. I believe that involvement from parents-advocates helps guide public policy and curriculum development. I want to serve on the CEC to advocate on behalf our children and ensure the best possible educational environment for them.
HYEWON LEE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M217	NO	NO	I am a mother of a first grader, and public health expert for maternal and child population. Raising my child through NYC, I had some ideas, in a mother's and public health perspective, to improve the learning environment of our children. I hope to share those ideas and work with others to make learning experience meaningful, healthy, and collaborative.
Peter Leonardi	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M297	NO	NO	Dear District 2 Education Council, I am the parent of students at three District 2 middle schools (75 Morton, Salk School of Science, and Clinton). I have been involved in their education since they were in pre-school at PS41. I have spent some time volunteer teaching at Salk and have coached their baseball teams at GVLL. We have been very involved in our community since moving here in 2002, when my wife started a fellowship at the now defunct St Vincent's Hospital, where she worked until it closed. I am a Scientist, and I believe that I would bring that analytical perspective to the committee, as well as my perspective and experience in the different schools that my kids attend or have attended. I think I am a well rounded candidate and would represent the community well.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
NADIA LEVY	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M290	NO	NO	<p>I would be honored to serve on the District 2 Community Education Council. I have a son at PS 290 and a daughter at the District 2 East 76th street universal Pre-K (French Dual Language Program). I am an active parent leader at both schools, and I serve on the School Leadership Team at PS 290. My children have a very multicultural background which includes being French Canadian, Muslim Indian, Middle Eastern, Israeli and German. As a result, diversity, globalization and multiculturalism are important values in our household. I have been a strong advocate for Dual Language education in the District. Along with a group of motivated parents, I helped spearhead the French Dual Language Initiative that led to the successful establishment of the East 76th street pre-K program. We are still working to create the continuation k-5 of the program. Through the Initiative, I have learned a great deal about working with the Department of Education. I have learned that persistence and determination are key and I have learned that parent advocacy works. I also discovered the benefits of advocacy when I fought to hire citywide school nurses in early 2020. As a healthcare worker myself, I felt school nurses were absolutely essential, especially during a pandemic. Along with a few other parents, we created a petition, distributed it at PS290 and then distributed it to other schools across the district. I sought the help of the D2 CEC and wrote a resolution. Eventually, it was incorporated into another resolution and presented at a meeting with almost unanimous support from the council. Several parents in our group spoke up at that meeting, and the next day the Mayor announced he would hire school nurses for all the schools. I believe in equity and in high quality public education. I believe those two things do not have to be at odds with each other, that compromises can be made. I believe in listening to all sides of a debate and coming to an individual thoughtful conclusion. If I had the honor of serving on the council, I would strive to represent district 2 parents well and be a voice of rationality and reason.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
ASHLEE LEWIS	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M217	YES	NO	<p>I don't believe in judging a fish by its ability to climb a tree " because every child possessed their own type of genius. That's largely because I'm the single mother of a unique and awesome 12-year-old who was diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum at the age of 2. My son has received services through Early Intervention, The Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE), and now the Committee on Special Education (CSE). He was enrolled in a District 75 school, but later transferred to our local district and was placed in an ICT class. In addition to being an active parent at both P94M and P.S./I.S.217, I have my BA in Psychology, have served as a mentor to emotionally/physically abused, out-of-care youth at the Achieving Independence Center in Philadelphia, formerly practiced Special Education Law, and am currently serving on the of Directors of Rena Daycare Centers, Inc. in Washington Heights. I am tenacious when it comes to obtaining the services and proper placement my son deserves. I'm also a prototypical self-starter " initiating contact with various agencies and departments (specifically within the EI, CPSE, CSE circuits), building relationships with teachers, personnel, and administrators, researching different resources, meeting deadlines that were definitive yet subject to change, and refining my interpersonal skills and communication skills " all while staying compulsively organized. There is nothing that will transform your life more than having your child diagnosed with a developmental, intellectual, or physical disability. It has a sideswiping effect and we, the parents, are often left overwhelmed and alone in trying to navigate the education system. Over the last 10years, my knowledge is tantamount to those who have been professionally trained in the field and I want to put that knowledge to use for the public good. That's why it would be an honor and a privilege to serve on the Education Council if elected.</p>
QIU HUA LIU	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M130	NO	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
GANG LU	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M077	NO	NO	<p>Hello everyone, this is Luther Lu and the reason I want to participate in this election is because NY public schools have taken a lot of damages from the out going Chancellor and I want to do my part to right the ship so to speak. I know that you have many candidate's profile/statement to go over, so I want you to simply remember me as the most practical candidate you will vote for. Briefly my background: I have two daughters attending PS77 (currently 3rd grade and K, respectively) and I am volunteering on PTA's G&T sub-committee. I was born and raised in Beijing China and came to this country to get my BS/MS in engineering and MBA in finance. I believe that I have some unique perspectives that could add value to CEC conversations. I know that CEC handles a whole host of issues. But here I want to discuss two practical issues that you likely care about a lot, The first issue is related to the quality of math education. Based on my experience with the Lab (and the Lab is on an accelerated schedule) as well as exchanges from parents from other schools, I find that math education in NYC is grossly inadequate to prepare our children for the next generation of jobs in this technology driven world. How inadequate? By comparing what the Chinese students learn/test and what the NYC students/learn test, I believe that on average NYC students is at least one if not two years behind. We all know that the best time for a child's brain development is between ages 3-8 and by not stimulating/challenging youngsters enough, the education system does irreversible detrimental damage to our next generation and weakens the future of this country. People wonder why the US is falling behind in math education and the answer is frankly super simple: we don't challenge kids enough. If parents/teachers don't do it, kids certainly are not going to do it by themselves. Second, I want to address the hot button "equity" issue to proposing a solution that would be palatable to a city that is severely constrained by budgeting issues. The equity issue related to education in NYC is how we can help young students that are falling behind to catch up in a city. I want to introduce a student-tutoring program where students as young as 5th graders (old enough to travel in the city at least in groups) to tutor lower grade students. This would create multiple benefits. First, it would encourage upper grade students to study harder in order to be selected by the program. Second, it encourages students to improve communication skills by being able to explain things/concepts more clearly. But most importantly, students who need help get a sister/brother like help. Sometimes, younger kids could make tremendous progress if simply there is someone who reads to them or help them practice math. In closing, NY public schools face a lot of issues and I hope that you elect someone like me who can come up with practical solutions to serve. Together, with your input, we take care one tough issue at a time. Thank you! Sincerely, Luther Lu</p>
ALICE LUONG	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M167	NO	NO	<p>Hello, fellow families! I have a 6th grader at Wagner (who's also a graduate of PS 158). Not only am I a NYC public school parent, I'm also a NYC public school graduate. I grew up in a poor part of Queens and remember well the NYC of the "bad old days" - 3rd grade classrooms with 40 kids, etc. None of that mattered though because I got a great education! I'm running for the CEC to make sure that as the city goes through the tough times ahead, our kids can still get a great education! Let's face it - the world is changing rapidly. I'm sure we all know companies that are outsourcing cheap labor from abroad. It's only going to get worse. Our kids need an education to compete. Not a dysfunctional system where in-person school was closed for months (and for some, still closed!). I was involved with the PA at PS 158 and have worked with many parents. Vote for me and I will do my best to fight for your kids!</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Keisha Lynch	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M003	NO	NO	Hello, my name is Keisha Lynch and I am extremely excited to be completing this application for a seat on the Education Council. I have served and advocated for the educational needs of SUNY Empire State College students for 4 years while serving as a representative of the Student Affairs Committee at the college. My running for the Education Council will allow me to continue working and advocating for the education of the children in our community. It is important to me to serve on the Education Council because I would like the opportunity to ensure significant strides that have been made in creating access to education are not lost due to COVID-19 and the significant impact it had on students and learners around the world. I would be grateful for the opportunity to confer the current state of the schools in the district, review the district's educational programs and assess their effect on student achievement. My efforts as community member on the Education Council would center on serving all the children in the community, improving the schools, and shaping the policies and programs of the schools. By working together, we can all share in the knowledge and satisfaction that we have provided for the educational needs of the children in our communities, and have built a district where students, parents, teachers, and staff feel they are welcome and that they belong.
NATALIE MARCANO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M297	NO	NO	Hi there! My name is Natalie Marcano and I am applying for an Education Council seat. I am doing so because education is extremely important to me. I have a total of eight years of educational experience. I worked as a paraprofessional for the NYC Department of Education for six years. I went on to teach English online to Students in China. I then transitioned to becoming a substitute teacher in El Paso, TX where I was then chosen to become a lead ELL/Reading teacher who led the entire first grade team. I also served as a member on our Teacher Advisory Council. I currently am a long term sub-interventionist working with struggling students. With all this being said, I know how education is not only important for our children it is important for families as well. The environment, decisions, and change that occur have an impact on our education community. I, myself, am a parent and my child's education environment plays an essential role on how she learns, trusts, and moves forward with her academics. I am aware of the responsibilities as an education council member and I am willing to step up and be a voice in our community addressing and evaluating changes that continue to be made; changes that affect us as a whole community. I hope to be given the opportunity to serve and make a difference. That is my goal in applying for this seat. I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you for your time!
Gloria Marrero	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M198	YES	NO	At work, I create or optimize processes to help my organization maintain compliance with regulatory requirements. As a Hispanic mother raising a child on my own, I rely heavily on school system to make informed decisions based on the needs of the communities they support. That said, I think there is a lack of representation for guardians like me in roles that influence. I'm here to do my part if you will have me.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
LAURA MC QUADE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M167	NO	NO	<p>I am proud to call myself a New York City public school parent. I would not have it any other way, despite all we have gone through in the past year. I think it is fair to say that we as a city and a nation are facing challenges today that none of us could have anticipated. Regarding teaching our children, we have needed to make choices that left all of us without any ideal outcomes. We also needed to adapt and shift to meet ever-changing landscapes, which for some were manageable and for many others posed insurmountable obstacles. While none of us would have chosen the devastating public health and education realities of the past year, I think they have shown us individually and as a collective city that we are far more resilient and have far greater tenacity than we ever imagined. Resilience, tenacity, and adaptability will be important building blocks as we move into a period in our schools that I hope will be characterized by reimagination, reinvigoration, and an unflagging commitment to ensuring access to the highest quality education that bravely tackles some of the historic and continuing barriers to learning – systemic racism, language differences, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and lack of healthcare. I am excited to run for Community Education Council 2, in order to be part of the restoring and reimagining of public education in New York City as we all seek to reopen schools fully in September 2021. The spectrum of families calling District 2 home represents a wonderfully inclusive snapshot of our city, but many of our differences – race, language, economic advantage - present challenges when providing public education. Same is not equal and equality does not always lead to equity. Equity must be the north star on which we focus, even when we know that it will take many years, and we must come together as a community, even when we are asked to de-prioritize what may seem best for us as individuals in the short term. I want to be part of a community team that works collaboratively and constructively with District 2 and school leadership to ensure that all communities in the district have a voice in their children’s education and that the varying perspectives are reflected in a rigorous, yet adaptive, educational experience. I have a proven leadership track record and bring to the table significant skills and experience that I believe will be helpful to the work of the Council. These include budgeting and forecasting, strategic planning, transformation and change management, and advocacy and public policy. I hope to become a member of the Council and be part of ensuring that NYC’s young people are prepared for and have access to the future that they all deserve.</p>
JACLYN MELTZER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M267	NO	NO	<p>As a current parent of children enrolled in the DOE, and as a former employee, I feel I offer various viewpoints and understand the workings of the public schools but will also be the voice of families who want the best possible opportunities for their children.</p>
SUZY MODY	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M059	NO	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
VIVIANA MONTENEGRO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	NO	NO	<p>To whom it may concern, Hope this message finds you and your families safe and healthy. It would an honor to serve the community in an area that should be a high priority, education. I feel there is so much work to do to improve the education system, and I feel such a sense of duty to contribute. I see a great void in the funding allocated to science, and a holistic point of view in the education system. I care deeply about about my community, sustainability, and inclusivity. I can be helpful in zoning matters, and sustainable development due to my NYU Master of Science in Real Estate, and work experience. I can provide a holistic point of view and out-side-the-box thinking potential built by a Waldorf methodology education from kindergarten to high school. I have also experience both traditional and Waldorf methodologies as a mother of an elementary school age child and I can provide a wider range of ideas to provide all children the support they need. I volunteer regularly at P.S. 276 Battery Park City School. Here it is a bit more about my passion for the built environment, and career in commercial real estate. I am a real estate expert and community advocate. I am a former properties and finance executive that has a decade of practical, world-reaching assets and investment experience to complement her scholarship on the international real estate front. Before my graduate degree, I led a team at the firm Cushman and Wakefield where I managed the New York Presbyterian Hospital’s real estate and asset portfolio. Reporting and reviewing processes for the asset services team’s senior associates and upper management were my chief duties. Similar employment in Chicago and various Latin American property and development agencies has shaped my peripatetic worldview. I am elective and highly-detailed by nature, I opened the real estate investment consulting firm VMCASA to answer the call for a more client-focused selling, investing, and leasing experience, be it residential or commercial asset type. In other words, VMCASA is a strident departure from the impersonal, imperfect real estate investment transaction experience, one that is all too often stressful, unnecessarily costly, and rushed. I care about my legacy and producing good quality work. In 2021, I launched my podcast Growing Cities. The podcast series seeks to bring together a diverse array of progressive dwellers who envision a greater future for cities across the globe. The mission of the podcast is to also to educate our audience about urban development, real estate investment, and architecture. I look forward to learning about the next steps. Thanks in advance for this opportunity! Sincerely, Viviana Montenegro-Addo https://www.vivianamaddo.com/</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
BENJAMIN MORDEN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M255	NO	NO	<p>Dear Parents, My name is Benjamin Morden and I hope you will re-elect me to District 2a's Community Education Council (CECD2) to continue to represent you during these unprecedented times. The past two years I have served as Screening Admissions Chair, Remote Education Chair, and Council Treasurer. Through Council work, and with my three daughters in NYC Public Schools (grades 6, 7, and 11), I empathize with parents on the many urgent issues impacting students. On March 1, 2020, I started collaborating with Council President Maron to advocate closing schools two weeks before the Mayor, Chancellor, and Governor reacted to Covid. After some pushback, 9-days later we had a Council pronouncement, pressuring leaders for a pandemic response. I continue to be a voice for responsible actions. Sadly, the Covid Curriculum has overburdened parents and reduced education accountability. Transitioning from in-person learning, to online remote learning, then blended hybrid learning and its iterations, has produced uneven results with few students thriving, and many coping poorly. It is time to correct the consequences. As your representative, I had an opportunity on December 8, 2020 during CECD2's Town Hall to question former Chancellor Carranza and learn how he was measuring the impact and addressing the Covid Curriculum on students (aka Covid Achievement Gap). I suggested to the Chancellor to utilize results from nationally normed assessment tools, like i-Ready. Instead, I heard crickets; few details were given to measure outcomes and elevate pre-Covid learning trajectories. Our students deserve better. Parents, we are at a tipping point in NYC Public Schools. Over 43,000 students have fled the DOE system, while a disproportionate number of D2 families have left for Private or Charter School options, or NYC entirely. It is alarming that D2 elementary schools have lost ~1,500 students, averaging 60 students per school. Subsequent school budgets and PTA funding will suffer, impacting education quality. A Council resolution demanding full school funding is a tooth fairy policy. Funds will be restored when school enrollments and our region's economy return to pre-Covid levels. Let us encourage student enrollments by diminishing parent uncertainties and increasing expectations: 1. Prioritize full in-person school openings now, with remote simultaneous classrooms options for at-risk families. Teaching lessons to darkened Zoom screens must end. 2. Upgrade school building HVAC ventilation systems for sustainable long term school openings by coordinating with the School Construction Authority (SCA). 3. Demand real education excellence, by committing students to improving grades, behavior, and attendance and assessing their proficiencies. 4. Cultivate K-5 education outcomes, by adding accelerated curriculum classrooms in every school. Early learning gains directly correlate with improved integration and equity efforts. 5. Ensure middle school D2 admission options. Repeal resolutions that limit local middle school access, like controlled choice admission lotteries that can force excessive commutes. 10-year-old students should not have to travel on subways. 6. Provide schools that meet all children's needs, from students who benefit from interventions, special services, IEPs, and two teacher classrooms, to students who benefit from multiple languages, accelerated curricula, G&Ts, and academically rigorous middle schools and specialized high schools. *My other</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
BENJAMIN MORDEN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	13K430	NO	NO	<p>Dear Parents, My name is Benjamin Morden and I hope you will re-elect me to District 2's Community Education Council (CECD2) to continue to represent you during these unprecedented times. The past two years I have served as Screening Admissions Chair, Remote Education Chair, and Council Treasurer. Through Council work, and with my three daughters in NYC Public Schools (grades 6, 7, and 11), I empathize with parents on the many urgent issues impacting students. On March 1, 2020, I started collaborating with Council President Maron to advocate closing schools two weeks before the Mayor, Chancellor, and Governor reacted to Covid. After some pushback, 9-days later we had a Council pronouncement, pressuring leaders for a pandemic response. I continue to be a voice for responsible actions. Sadly, the Covid Curriculum has overburdened parents and reduced education accountability. Transitioning from in-person learning, to online remote learning, then blended hybrid learning and its iterations, has produced uneven results with few students thriving, and many coping poorly. It is time to correct the consequences. As your representative, I had an opportunity on December 8, 2020 during CECD2's Town Hall to question former Chancellor Carranza and learn how he was measuring the impact and addressing the Covid Curriculum on students (aka Covid Achievement Gap). I suggested to the Chancellor to utilize results from nationally normed assessment tools, like i-Ready. Instead, I heard crickets; few details were given to measure outcomes and elevate pre-Covid learning trajectories. Our students deserve better. Parents, we are at a tipping point in NYC Public Schools. Over 43,000 students have fled the DOE system, while a disproportionate number of D2 families have left for Private or Charter School options, or NYC entirely. It is alarming that D2 elementary schools have lost ~1,500 students, averaging 60 students per school. Subsequent school budgets and PTA funding will suffer, impacting education quality. A Council resolution demanding full school funding is a tooth fairy policy. Funds will be restored when school enrollments and our region's economy return to pre-Covid levels. Let us encourage student enrollments by diminishing parent uncertainties and increasing expectations: 1. Prioritize full in-person school openings now, with remote simultaneous classrooms options for at-risk families. Teaching lessons to darkened Zoom screens must end. 2. Upgrade school building HVAC ventilation systems for sustainable long term school openings by coordinating with the School Construction Authority (SCA). 3. Demand real education excellence, by committing students to improving grades, behavior, and attendance and assessing their proficiencies. 4. Cultivate K-5 education outcomes, by adding accelerated curriculum classrooms in every school. Early learning gains directly correlate with improved integration and equity efforts. 5. Ensure middle school D2 admission options. Repeal resolutions that limit local middle school access, like controlled choice admission lotteries that can force excessive commutes. 10-year-old students should not have to travel on subways. 6. Provide schools that meet all children's needs, from students who benefit from interventions, special services, IEPs, and two teacher classrooms, to students who benefit from multiple languages, accelerated curricula, G&Ts, and academically rigorous middle schools and specialized high schools. *My other</p>
Mahboobeh Mozayan	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M104	NO	NO	<p>The importance of education even extends itself to our personal growth. By constantly educating ourselves, asking questions and wanting to know more, we can move forward and achieve things we never imagined before. Get to know yourself education can allow us to get to know ourselves better than ever.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
AZADEH NAMAKYDOUST	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M343	NO	NO	As a parent of a Pre-K student in New York City's District 2, I firmly believe that parents can and must play a crucial role in helping shape the policies that affect our children and their teachers. It is through the community and city-wide education boards that we can bring the voices of our community to the forefront and keep our officials accountable. It is with our participation and active engagement that we can ensure the highest quality public education for all of our children in New York City. Although, I have not previously held a similar position, as a physician, I have served on representative institutional committees, advocating for the interests of my patients and colleagues. My family and I are strongly committed to public education in the city and believe that every child in every borough and regardless of socio-economic background deserves a well-funded, well-staffed and programmed public education. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to serving you and all our children on the Education Council.
Thao Nguyen	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M006	NO	NO	I am the parent of two school aged children 5 years apart and I am a committed advocate for public schools. I have been able to successfully (luckily!) navigate the kindergarten, middle school, and high school admissions process, as well as the G&T and specialized school admission process. At the same time, I have been a board member of a highly regarded blue ribbon K-5, as well as consistent class parent for both my children at all schools attended. This combined experience in the public school sector and deep involvement in my children's school life equips me with the foundational knowledge and informed reference base to contribute to the future development of curricula and admissions policies. Our current NYC process is unnecessarily stressful. Public education is a right for all, regardless of income, race and any other socioeconomic factors. I would be honored to have the opportunity to contribute to future decision-making that helps achieve equity and maintain excellence for all.
Thao Nguyen	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	03M479	NO	NO	I am the parent of two school aged children 5 years apart and I am a committed advocate for public schools. I have been able to successfully (luckily!) navigate the kindergarten, middle school, and high school admissions process, as well as the G&T and specialized school admission process. At the same time, I have been a board member of a highly regarded blue ribbon K-5, as well as consistent class parent for both my children at all schools attended. This combined experience in the public school sector and deep involvement in my children's school life equips me with the foundational knowledge and informed reference base to contribute to the future development of curricula and admissions policies. Our current NYC process is unnecessarily stressful. Public education is a right for all, regardless of income, race and any other socioeconomic factors. I would be honored to have the opportunity to contribute to future decision-making that helps achieve equity and maintain excellence for all.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ramona Niederhausern	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M158	NO	NO	I am a Mechanical and Energy Engineer and Software Developer. I love all math including probability and I am a researcher for life. I’ve been in various teaching positions since I started teaching K-12 at a high needs public school district in the South at age 17. I’ve been Cubmaster for Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scout Leader for a STEM troop I created with Girl Scouts of America. Last year I left a volunteering position with a large Women's organization where I had been the President for 1.5 years. My primary role was to teach and help women progress their life. I currently teach religious history. Tragedies caused by mental illnesses in my family have defined who I am and created my desire to use my knowledge to better our educational system, and to specifically integrate Mental Health Education into our curriculum. Overall my life has been amazing and I am very happy. I am a mother and loving it! I am a wife and happily married, my husband supports me in working long hours. I am the oldest sister of six children. I am always a student, looking to gain knowledge from ground up in everything I do.
Ramona Niederhausern	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M158	YES	NO	I am a Mechanical and Energy Engineer and Software Developer. I love all math including probability and I am a researcher for life. I’ve been in various teaching positions since I started teaching K-12 at a high needs public school district in the South at age 17. I’ve been Cubmaster for Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scout Leader for a STEM troop I created with Girl Scouts of America. Last year I left a volunteering position with a large Women's organization where I had been the President for 1.5 years. My primary role was to teach and help women progress their life. I currently teach religious history. Tragedies caused by mental illnesses in my family have defined who I am and created my desire to use my knowledge to better our educational system, and to specifically integrate Mental Health Education into our curriculum. Overall my life has been amazing and I am very happy. I am a mother and loving it! I am a wife and happily married, my husband supports me in working long hours. I am the oldest sister of six children. I am always a student, looking to gain knowledge from ground up in everything I do.
Ramona Niederhausern	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	04M146	NO	NO	I am a Mechanical and Energy Engineer and Software Developer. I love all math including probability and I am a researcher for life. I’ve been in various teaching positions since I started teaching K-12 at a high needs public school district in the South at age 17. I’ve been Cubmaster for Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scout Leader for a STEM troop I created with Girl Scouts of America. Last year I left a volunteering position with a large Women's organization where I had been the President for 1.5 years. My primary role was to teach and help women progress their life. I currently teach religious history. Tragedies caused by mental illnesses in my family have defined who I am and created my desire to use my knowledge to better our educational system, and to specifically integrate Mental Health Education into our curriculum. Overall my life has been amazing and I am very happy. I am a mother and loving it! I am a wife and happily married, my husband supports me in working long hours. I am the oldest sister of six children. I am always a student, looking to gain knowledge from ground up in everything I do.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
SUZANNE OCONNOR	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M442	NO	NO	Hello Families, I am running for the CEC because I am dedicated to helping students and families get the highest quality education experience possible. I have two children, and collectively, our school experience in NYC has crossed 3 different school districts with vastly different school communities. One school was a small, highly diverse elementary that was a Title I school when we first enrolled and then lost its Title I status (and school wide funding) as it rapidly grew in enrollment. Another school is a small specialized public school serving grades 4-8 that works closely with a charitable foundation and the final school is one of the largest middle schools in its district and serves a wide spectrum of families while maintaining its Title 1 status. At these schools I have served on PTA Exec boards in many capacities including as a PTA President for 3 years, and I have served on SLT boards at all 3 for a combined 7 years. All of this service and involvement in different school communities has led me to be very passionate about providing the best school experience possible for ALL of NYC's students. I am dedicated to working with the community and school leaders to make sure our students are provided with all of the tools necessary to create successful schools and excellent student experiences and outcomes. Thank You for your Time and Consideration, Suzanne O'Connor
SUZANNE OCONNOR	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	14K318	NO	NO	Hello Families, I am running for the CEC because I am dedicated to helping students and families get the highest quality education experience possible. I have two children, and collectively, our school experience in NYC has crossed 3 different school districts with vastly different school communities. One school was a small, highly diverse elementary that was a Title I school when we first enrolled and then lost its Title I status (and school wide funding) as it rapidly grew in enrollment. Another school is a small specialized public school serving grades 4-8 that works closely with a charitable foundation and the final school is one of the largest middle schools in its district and serves a wide spectrum of families while maintaining its Title 1 status. At these schools I have served on PTA Exec boards in many capacities including as a PTA President for 3 years, and I have served on SLT boards at all 3 for a combined 7 years. All of this service and involvement in different school communities has led me to be very passionate about providing the best school experience possible for ALL of NYC's students. I am dedicated to working with the community and school leaders to make sure our students are provided with all of the tools necessary to create successful schools and excellent student experiences and outcomes. Thank You for your Time and Consideration, Suzanne O'Connor
SHENAE OSBORN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M397	NO	NO	As a single mother of three boys attaining her MSW degree I have experienced as well as witnessed many circumstances that need awareness and advocacy. As COVID-19 has created many changes in a system that has needed attention, I believe that we are in a position to create great changes that help families of all socioeconomic circumstances from all backgrounds. Too many parents are underrepresented especially in the PTA due to a lack of ability to communicate effectively or due to jobs that do not give them the time to represent their child(ren) needs. I know because I have had to advocate for my children time and time again. The staff members, along with administrative staff need the voice of those that have experience where they are unable to see the needs. We must work together to create a stronger community no matter where a person is from, no matter their color, no matter their gender, no matter their financial resources- no matter what. We must embrace diversity and create inclusion. As a future social worker, I will advocate for those that can't and represent in a respectful and dignified manner.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
SHENAE OSBORN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	03M084	YES	NO	As a single mother of three boys attaining her MSW degree I have experienced as well as witnessed many circumstances that need awareness and advocacy. As COVID-19 has created many changes in a system that has needed attention, I believe that we are in a position to create great changes that help families of all socioeconomic circumstances from all backgrounds. Too many parents are underrepresented especially in the PTA due to a lack of ability to communicate effectively or due to jobs that do not give them the time to represent their child(ren) needs. I know because I have had to advocate for my children time and time again. The staff members, along with administrative staff need the voice of those that have experience where they are unable to see the needs. We must work together to create a stronger community no matter where a person is from, no matter their color, no matter their gender, no matter their financial resources- no matter what. We must embrace diversity and create inclusion. As a future social worker, I will advocate for those that can't and represent in a respectful and dignified manner.
PARAG PANDE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M114	NO	NO	I bring a fresh perspective to the Education council. I have been on the School Committee of Friends Seminary, a private K-12 school near Union Square, as well as chair of its Finance Committee. I currently serve on the Board of Advisors of Trinity College at Duke University. I have spent over 20 years in various investment businesses, seeking to help them improve and overcome key challenges and bottlenecks. I am not the typical candidate that has spent many years as a PTA officer or in SLT/DLT service; however my commitment to education has been consistent with my board services and constant volunteer engagement throughout the community. I have decide to get involved now because I believe education in the city is facing numerous challenges that need active leadership that can engage with new perspectives. Inequity in our schools, the role of technology in learning, the state of mental health of our children, and how we prepare them for a rapidly changing economy are key questions that must be addressed with great urgency. I believe strongly in opportunity for all, from the high performing student striving to be the next president of our country, to the child that is struggling with learning disability to the child that is suffering from a lack of means. I have experience in bringing stakeholders together, establishing trust, creating urgency to solve problems and not merely debate them. I have an insatiable energy and inspiration to leave a better system for generations to come. This has become a calling for me, a feeling that with my experience, it would be a tragedy not to give back some how. I am grateful for what my children have received from our city's education system, but I know there is so much potential to do more.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
PARAG PANDE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	10X696	NO	NO	<p>I bring a fresh perspective to the Education council. I have been on the School Committee of Friends Seminary, a private K-12 school near Union Square, as well as chair of its Finance Committee. I currently serve on the Board of Advisors of Trinity College at Duke University. I have spent over 20 years in various investment businesses, seeking to help them improve and overcome key challenges and bottlenecks. I am not the typical candidate that has spent many years as a PTA officer or in SLT/DLT service; however my commitment to education has been consistent with my board services and constant volunteer engagement throughout the community. I have decide to get involved now because I believe education in the city is facing numerous challenges that need active leadership that can engage with new perspectives. Inequity in our schools, the role of technology in learning, the state of mental health of our children, and how we prepare them for a rapidly changing economy are key questions that must be addressed with great urgency. I believe strongly in opportunity for all, from the high performing student striving to be the next president of our country, to the child that is struggling with learning disability to the child that is suffering from a lack of means. I have experience in bringing stakeholders together, establishing trust, creating urgency to solve problems and not merely debate them. I have an insatiable energy and inspiration to leave a better system for generations to come. This has become a calling for me, a feeling that with my experience, it would be a tragedy not to give back some how. I am grateful for what my children have received from our city's education system, but I know there is so much potential to do more.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
NIKOS PAPAGEORGIU	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M167	NO	NO	<p>My name is Nikos Papageorgiou. I immigrated with my family from Greece in 1980 to North Carolina, where I attended College and became an Electrical Engineer. I am a product of the public education system, both in the US and abroad. I am now an entrepreneur, importing specialty foods from Greece and live in NYC with my wife and two boys, a 6th and 10th Grader. I pride myself for being very involved with the education and the overall upbringing of my kids. The reason I am running is to improve the communication channels between the Parents and the Schools/DOE, primarily as it relates to the way the Schools educate our kids on issues like Social Injustice, Equality, Acceptance, Diversity, Sexuality, Identity, Privilege, etc. I believe that there is a huge disconnect between Parents and the DOE/Schools and I would be like to be your advocate to try to bridge that gap. Even though most parents agree that these issues need to be addressed at an early age, I believe that many times we, as parents, are frustrated with the way, the duration, the speed, the scope and the scale that these very important issues are being addressed. In addition, the vast majority of us feels uncomfortable raising any questions/concerns feared that we and our kids will be viewed negatively. At the end, the question of rights and responsibilities comes in to play. Sure, the NYC DOE, has the responsibility to educate all the kids on various important issues, but do the parents have any right to at least be aware of that effort? Who knows what’s best for my kid? The NYC DOE that has to take care of my kid, along with 1.2 million other kids, or I who only have to take care that one kid? Does the “one size fits all” approach ever work? Do I have a say? Should I have a say? I always see the best in people and I truly believe that the NYC DOE and our Schools are doing the very best job they can based on the data that they have, including the feedback they receive. So, the more we stay silent the more we provide them with the wrong data, leading them down the non-ideal path for our kids’ well-being and letting them fly blind. I believe that the NYC DOE needs to hear what we have to say and it is our duty and responsibility to do so. Let’s help them out. I believe that I am qualified for the position because, a) I am a VERY involved father with the education and upbringing of my children, so I know what’s going on, and I will make it my job to know even more, b) I am a forthright, honest and outspoken debater, who will back his statements with facts and data. I am not trying to tell the NYC DOE what to teach, or even how to teach it. I believe however that we need to separate the meanings of “educating” a child and “raising” a child. I want the School to educate my child, but I expect them to leave the raising to me and I will be asking them that when there is an overlap, I want to know. If you share my position, please vote for me. Sincerely, Nikos Papageorgiou</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
NIKOS PAPAGEORGIU	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	10X445	NO	NO	<p>My name is Nikos Papageorgiou. I immigrated with my family from Greece in 1980 to North Carolina, where I attended College and became an Electrical Engineer. I am a product of the public education system, both in the US and abroad. I am now an entrepreneur, importing specialty foods from Greece and live in NYC with my wife and two boys, a 6th and 10th Grader. I pride myself for being very involved with the education and the overall upbringing of my kids. The reason I am running is to improve the communication channels between the Parents and the Schools/DOE, primarily as it relates to the way the Schools educate our kids on issues like Social Injustice, Equality, Acceptance, Diversity, Sexuality, Identity, Privilege, etc. I believe that there is a huge disconnect between Parents and the DOE/Schools and I would be like to be your advocate to try to bridge that gap. Even though most parents agree that these issues need to be addressed at an early age, I believe that many times we, as parents, are frustrated with the way, the duration, the speed, the scope and the scale that these very important issues are being addressed. In addition, the vast majority of us feels uncomfortable raising any questions/concerns feared that we and our kids will be viewed negatively. At the end, the question of rights and responsibilities comes in to play. Sure, the NYC DOE, has the responsibility to educate all the kids on various important issues, but do the parents have any right to at least be aware of that effort? Who knows what's best for my kid? The NYC DOE that has to take care of my kid, along with 1.2 million other kids, or I who only have to take care that one kid? Does the "one size fits all" approach ever work? Do I have a say? Should I have a say? I always see the best in people and I truly believe that the NYC DOE and our Schools are doing the very best job they can based on the data that they have, including the feedback they receive. So, the more we stay silent the more we provide them with the wrong data, leading them down the non-ideal path for our kids' well-being and letting them fly blind. I believe that the NYC DOE needs to hear what we have to say and it is our duty and responsibility to do so. Let's help them out. I believe that I am qualified for the position because, a) I am a VERY involved father with the education and upbringing of my children, so I know what's going on, and I will make it my job to know even more, b) I am a forthright, honest and outspoken debater, who will back his statements with facts and data. I am not trying to tell the NYC DOE what to teach, or even how to teach it. I believe however that we need to separate the meanings of "educating" a child and "raising" a child. I want the School to educate my child, but I expect them to leave the raising to me and I will be asking them that when there is an overlap, I want to know. If you share my position, please vote for me. Sincerely, Nikos Papageorgiou</p>
Carmen Paredes-Pacheco	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M104	YES	NO	
Carmen Paredes-Pacheco	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M340	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
MATTHEW PASHER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M408	YES	NO	My Name is Matthew Pasher and I would love the opportunity to effect change in our educational system. As a parent in Elementary School I worked with the PTA and was responsible for fundraising for a year. This helped effect change @ PS 212/Midtown west and after stopping I continued to work raising money and attending diversity meetings which was a real hot button issue for me. As my daughter enters Middle school @ PPAS I have started to think long and hard how I would like children to be taught in the classroom. Acquiring my BA in History from Kenyon college I was always encouraged to be inquisitive to find out the truth, but have lately over the past 5-10 lamented on whether what I was taught was the truth warts and all. What I want for all students in the classroom is for teachers and educators to provide an environment of engagement and encouragement. Children are only challenged when the information that they are given is challenging and fun. While I agree there is an important aspect to having structure, If we are too structured and not willing to look at all view points, children are not encouraged to come up with their own ideas. There is also a real need for diversity to be a greater part of the curriculum. Education needs to not only be inclusive regarding what we teach but who we teach about as well as who teaches. I get quite frustrated with "tenure" style teachers who rest on their laurels. I really believe we need new engaging teachers who challenge the children. Paying teachers more is also important and I would hope that this opportunity to give me the chance to advocate for great new teachers who can engage and encourage our students. This past year has presented many challenges and being a part of this group will also allow me to help possibly plan how we can engage our kids coming back with lots of care and understanding tempered in. Thanks so much for your consideration All the Best Matthew C. Pasher.
ELIAS PENA	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M198	YES	NO	
Christopher Petrilli	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M276	NO	NO	
TRACY PIAZZA	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M003	NO	NO	I am a parent of 3 children from grades 2nd to 9th grade. They are in public, private and special education. I am a daughter of two educators, one that lead testing for the 9th largest county in the country and the other that ran a high school for 20+ years. I'm dedicated to our community and want to make an impact that positively effects our community.
TRACY PIAZZA	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	88M840	YES	NO	I am a parent of 3 children from grades 2nd to 9th grade. They are in public, private and special education. I am a daughter of two educators, one that lead testing for the 9th largest county in the country and the other that ran a high school for 20+ years. I'm dedicated to our community and want to make an impact that positively effects our community.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ezra Polonsky	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M281	NO	NO	<p>Please consider voting for me for Manhattan District 2 Education Council. I am the parent of a kindergarten student at the River School. However, at the beginning of this (very unusual) school year, we were enrolled in a G&T program at a different school. Our experience with that very clearly highlighted the challenges of distance learning, the limitations of the G&T program, and the need for enthusiastic engagement from parents at this time of great transition. A little about my professional background: I am a seasoned business analyst program manager, trained to study the way things are done, figure out what can be improved, and execute on those changes. I have extensive experience working in and around NYC government, including the Mayor’s Office of Contract Services and the Dept of City Planning. I also have experience in the non-profit sector; having worked at the Fund for the City of New York (FCNY) and Jewish Federations of North America. At FCNY, I was privileged to be part of a team using innovative techniques to measure the performance of City government in ways that were meaningful to citizens. That experience taught me the criticality of using timely, accurate, and objective data to create a shared understanding between people and their government. In addition, I have worked in the financial services sector, developing systems for JPMC to support their control and compliance operations. I believe these experiences, along with my energy and enthusiasm, will enable me to be an asset to the district. Personally, I am a third generation New Yorker, born and raised in Brooklyn. Some years back, however, we realized that we were being priced out of my ancestral borough. We made our way through Queens and finally to our current home in the Tudor City area, where we have found a warm and welcoming community and a wonderful local school. I come from a family of educators. My parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins have all worked as educators. In high school, I worked in the education department of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, teaching gardening to middle school students. While I have not worked in education as an adult, it is something I was raised with – educational philosophy and policy are frequent topics of discussion around my family dinner table. I believe this grounding, along with my formal work experience, gives me the insight and skills to be able to support the educational council’s strategic goals. Thank you</p>
MICHELLE PRIANO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M151	NO	NO	<p>My interest to serve on the council comes from my parental need to want to provide the best education for my children and that includes every kid in the community we live in. I spent 10 years on the board of directors for Community of Unity, a 501C3, that supports NYC public school kids with SEL. I am currently CO-VP of Fundraising at YCS M151. I have from, PREK 2016 been involved in as many events as I was able to with the school. I learned very early on that my children spend more time in the school than they do anywhere else so I want to be a partner to that institution. I strongly believe that parents are an integral part of a schools success and I want to make sure I walk the talk and do what I can do support my community. There are a lot of kids in NYC Public schools that are not in a home where their parent feels that way and I want to be a voice for those kids as well. Thank you for your time and I hope we can work together. Best, Michelle Priano</p>
CHUN YUK PUN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M131	NO	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
MEGHAN QUINN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M343	NO	NO	My name is Meghan and I have a daughter entering 1st grade and a son that will be entering Prek in September. We've lived in Manhattan for three years. I work in the Insurance Industry doing portfolio analytics and hold a Masters Degree from New York University in Public Administration/Public Policy. Education policy and politics have always been an important issue in my life. Having attended private elementary schools, I always admired the resources that NYC schools had to offer and the progress that's been taken to better opportunities for children with disabilities. My vision is that all children can have access to all resources that they need to facilitate their education and emotional development. I think I would make a strong asset to the team given my personal interest in our children's education and my education in public policy.
LESLEY RABACH	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M151	NO	NO	Dear NYC Department of Education Parents and Educators - My name is Daniel Kort. Originally from Kansas City, I am a practicing local physician with a small practice treating infertility on the Upper West Side. My parents were educators in a large public system. I am a product of public education and have been an advocate for educational excellence all my life. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve you on the Education Council, and believe I can offer a unique perspective and insight into solving the many issues we face together. My general educational philosophy is that students need a strong foundation, built with academic rigor, combined with the inspiration and space for creativity, exploration, and imagination. Please consider my candidacy.
NICOLLETTE RAMIREZ	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M281	NO	NO	I am a concerned parent who would like to contribute to my community. Our youngest members of our community, our children, need all hands on board at this unprecedented time. Our education system is evolving to meet the times and the public education system must catch up with what private schools and what the wealthier members of society already are implementing for their children's education and future success in society. In particular the cookie cutter model of education which caters to old fashioned factory worker education styles needs to be abolished and an individualized program of study implemented where each child is treated as an individual and learning is dynamic, based on the skills, interests and abilities of each child. In addition, education based not only on learning to follow orders, but learning to constructively question the systems which the world runs on and age appropriate learning through hands on doing, project based learning, not simply regurgitating learned info and being forced to sit in sanitized boxes but engaging with the environment and helping to contribute to the health of the overall environment, and therefore the future of their communities, their towns, country and the world. In addition, technology must be included in the curriculum and not only math, writing and science, as we are already living in the technological age. Thankfully mindful practices like meditation are already being addressed in some education programs and more of this should be a part of every school program. Compassionate educators and not law enforcement should be a part of our schools. The school to prison pipeline is not a myth and the fact that public schools need "protection" with police on the premises is a cause for concern. These police in schools need specific training for education. The food in public schools has to be reimaged as well. Instead of subsidized milk products from a dying dairy industry and food from non organic sources, our children need proper school meals, especially for those suffering from food shortages at home. In general we all need to reimagine a public education system that takes care of the not only the mind but the body and spirit of our children, the future.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
SANGEETHA RANJAN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M151	NO	NO	I am a Scientist working in Mount Sinai Hospital in the field of Cardiovascular Regenerative Medicine. My daughter is a first grader in NYC public school. This pandemic year has been challenging for kids and working parents like us equally. Being in essential biomedical research I find it is extremely rewarding for me to contribute my knowledge if I am selected as a member of the school education council. Kids can learn science in a fun and interactive way. This should start from the elementary school and should provide opportunities for the high schoolers to attend research institutions/laboratories as part of their curriculum to learn and observe. Such an opportunity will be crucial for many of them to understand beyond the text book and to have a strong scientific acumen as they grow up. I will be honored if I can be of any help to contribute to ways that we can promote science in the curriculum. I foresee bright, young scientific minds :)
OLGA ROTMISTROVA	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M217	YES	YES	
ARTHUR RUIZ	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M183	NO	NO	I am a father of two young children with a strong interest in the quality of education received by themselves and their peers. I'm concerned that the curriculum is too geared towards standardized testing and does not have enough of a focus on the "whole student" - developing critical skills in the arts, sciences, music, and a broader level of civic engagement. Moreover, our collective experience with COVID over the past year had brought to the forefront long-standing inequities and disparities among the quality and availability of education throughout our city. If chosen to serve on the ECE, I will work to ensure that every student, no matter their family's background or financial situation, has access to a dignified, substantial education that helps them grow as individuals and as young citizens.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
SARA SCHACTER ERENBURG	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M041	NO	NO	<p>I am the parent of two children at PS41 (fourth and fifth grade). With one of them getting ready for middle school next year and going through that process, I am keenly aware of the difficulty of balancing screening in schools with ensuring diversity and equity in access to education. In my time with kids in NYC public schools, I worked hard to be involved - including being a class parent each year (for one kid) and now I continue to do what I can to support the PTA and the DEI initiative at PS41.</p> <p>Professionally, I am a certified rehabilitation counselor with training in supporting people with disabilities. I have worked in non-profits for my entire career. Recently, I spent five years in training and development at a large NYC non-profit that provides services for children and adults with autism. My role included professional development for staff at all levels - direct support through senior leadership - as well as creating agency policies in response to changes in regulations and initiatives from the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the State Board of Education. I started and refined the agency DEI training as well as provided support to human resources in investigation and support for targets of harassment at work. Currently, I am a program manager supporting training at NYC Department of Correction through a CUNY School of Professional Studies grant. I also consult for the Regional Center for Workforce Transformation, supporting the 300+ agencies statewide that provide services under the auspices of OPWDD. My experience with the CEC is that there are a lot of big issues that need to be discussed, advocated for, and positions to be parsed out for parents and students. I know CEC meetings have been contentious in the past. My goal in meetings is to represent the families in D2 and an effective voice for the other parents. For both meeting participants and for constituents, progress needs to be discussed and a consensus needs to be made. However, without concrete plans and action items, nothing can be achieved that creates meaningful change for the kids - like my own - that D2 is there for. As someone who is action oriented, I believe that being part of the D2 CEC will allow me to effect real change. I believe the CEC can be a place that builds the capacity of each school in the district and fosters the growth and change that the schools need to move in to this new era of NYC DOE leadership. My hope is to join the D2 CEC and help the group move forward on its goals and respond to the needs of our community.</p>
ALEX SHILKRUT	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M077	NO	NO	<p>To Whom It May Concern, I would like to run for a seat on Education Council to further strengthen public schools and promote strong education curriculum for our children. As my own child attends first grade at a public school, I realized that i want to get involved in shaping education curriculum. The data that shocked me is that half of the student body in NYC public schools can't read and write at grade level, it should be our priority to improve upon this dismal situation. I don't have school experience except volunteering for various projects at school, but I have vast experience in hospital management, safety and medical postgraduate education and received several awards in the field. I can bring fresh perspective and apply industry experience to school management. Sincerely, Alexander Shilkrut, MD, DO, FACOG</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
LEONARD SILVERMAN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M158	YES	NO	<p>I am currently seeking re-election to the District 2 Community Education Council. As a member of the District 2 CEC, I have established a strong record over the past term working on behalf and representing the families and students in our district. In addition to my current service on the D2 CEC, I am serving my third-term as both the District 2 representative on the Chancellor’s Parent Advisory Council and as Co-President of the District 2 Presidents’ Council. I am a former PTA President at both East Side Middle School (2 years) and at P.S. 77, The Lower Lab School (2 years). I have held various other positions at both schools including, PTA Vice-President, Grade Representative and SLT parent member. While at P.S. 77, I was the recipient of the CSA Parent Leadership Award. I am also a former Public member of Manhattan Community Board 8 and was appointed to Youth, Education and Libraries Committee. All three of my children have attended District 2 schools. One is presently a third-grader at P.S. 158 and my two older children attend Baruch College Campus High School and the Bronx High School of Science. Collectively, my three children have spent a total of 28 years attending New York City public schools (K-12) while I have spent almost a decade serving in various and often multiple, elected parent leadership positions. I strongly believe that democratically elected parent leaders and CEC members must represent the broad interests, views and opinions of all District 2 parents. I am and have been a passionate advocate for our District 2 families and students and have heard from parents that I am often the “voice of reason” on a CEC with members who at times express strong opposing views. My experience has taught me that our children have wide-ranging academic abilities as well as social- emotional needs and that there is no “one-size fits all” when it comes to education. Individual schools, principals and educational programs need strong and dedicated parent support to succeed and to ensure the educational success of all of our students. If re-elected, I will continue to work on behalf of our families and their students to accelerate the critical transition back to in-person learning. I will also continue to support preserving and expanding gifted and talented programs, the creation of District 2 dual-language programs, initiatives to reduce class-size and the expansion of our local pre-school options. It’s been an honor serving on the CEC and I pledge that if re-elected I will, as always, continue to act collaboratively with our school communities, and never forget that as your representative it is my duty to support our families and their students.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
LEONARD SILVERMAN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M411	YES	NO	<p>I am currently seeking re-election to the District 2 Community Education Council. As a member of the District 2 CEC, I have established a strong record over the past term working on behalf and representing the families and students in our district. In addition to my current service on the D2 CEC, I am serving my third-term as both the District 2 representative on the Chancellor’s Parent Advisory Council and as Co-President of the District 2 Presidents’ Council. I am a former PTA President at both East Side Middle School (2 years) and at P.S. 77, The Lower Lab School (2 years). I have held various other positions at both schools including, PTA Vice-President, Grade Representative and SLT parent member. While at P.S. 77, I was the recipient of the CSA Parent Leadership Award. I am also a former “Public” member of Manhattan Community Board 8 and was appointed to Youth, Education and Libraries Committee. All three of my children have attended District 2 schools. One is presently a third-grader at P.S. 158 and my two older children attend Baruch College Campus High School and the Bronx High School of Science. Collectively, my three children have spent a total of 28 years attending New York City public schools (K-12) while I have spent almost a decade serving in various and often multiple, elected parent leadership positions. I strongly believe that democratically elected parent leaders and CEC members must represent the broad interests, views and opinions of all District 2 parents. I am and have been a passionate advocate for our District 2 families and students and have heard from parents that I am often the “voice of reason” on a CEC with members who at times express strong opposing views. My experience has taught me that our children have wide-ranging academic abilities as well as social- emotional needs and that there is no “one-size fits all” when it comes to education. Individual schools, principals and educational programs need strong and dedicated parent support to succeed and to ensure the educational success of all of our students. If re-elected, I will continue to work on behalf of our families and their students to accelerate the critical transition back to in-person learning. I will also continue to support preserving and expanding gifted and talented programs, the creation of District 2 dual-language programs, initiatives to reduce class-size and the expansion of our local pre-school options. It’s been an honor serving on the CEC and I pledge that if re-elected I will, as always, continue to act collaboratively with our school communities, and never forget that as your representative it is my duty to support our families and their students.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
LEONARD SILVERMAN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	10X445	YES	NO	<p>I am currently seeking re-election to the District 2 Community Education Council. As a member of the District 2 CEC, I have established a strong record over the past term working on behalf and representing the families and students in our district. In addition to my current service on the D2 CEC, I am serving my third-term as both the District 2 representative on the Chancellor’s Parent Advisory Council and as Co-President of the District 2 Presidents’ Council. I am a former PTA President at both East Side Middle School (2 years) and at P.S. 77, The Lower Lab School (2 years). I have held various other positions at both schools including, PTA Vice-President, Grade Representative and SLT parent member. While at P.S. 77, I was the recipient of the CSA Parent Leadership Award. I am also a former Public member of Manhattan Community Board 8 and was appointed to Youth, Education and Libraries Committee. All three of my children have attended District 2 schools. One is presently a third-grader at P.S. 158 and my two older children attend Baruch College Campus High School and the Bronx High School of Science. Collectively, my three children have spent a total of 28 years attending New York City public schools (K-12) while I have spent almost a decade serving in various and often multiple, elected parent leadership positions. I strongly believe that democratically elected parent leaders and CEC members must represent the broad interests, views and opinions of all District 2 parents. I am and have been a passionate advocate for our District 2 families and students and have heard from parents that I am often the “voice of reason” on a CEC with members who at times express strong opposing views. My experience has taught me that our children have wide-ranging academic abilities as well as social- emotional needs and that there is no “one-size fits all” when it comes to education. Individual schools, principals and educational programs need strong and dedicated parent support to succeed and to ensure the educational success of all of our students. If re-elected, I will continue to work on behalf of our families and their students to accelerate the critical transition back to in-person learning. I will also continue to support preserving and expanding gifted and talented programs, the creation of District 2 dual-language programs, initiatives to reduce class-size and the expansion of our local pre-school options. It’s been an honor serving on the CEC and I pledge that if re-elected I will, as always, continue to act collaboratively with our school communities, and never forget that as your representative it is my duty to support our families and their students.</p>
SATARA SINGLETON	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M422	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
NATASA SIVESKI	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M212	NO	NO	I am applying to the District 2 Community Education Council because in order to best serve our children’s needs, we need community engagement. Only we as parents understand the great impact our schools make on our children both academically and socially, and it is our duty to demand the best for them. I have had the great privilege on serving on committees in my professional career, and see the power and impact of being in these roles. I have also been a class parent at my son’s school for the past several years because I believe that community involvement is fundamental to the success of any school, regardless of a student’s age. With respect to priorities, I view scholastic achievement as the single most important tenet in New York City’s educational system, and I would advocate for policies aimed at maximizing the quality of education our children receive. We are fortunate to have a high performing public school system with District 2, but it would be a disservice to our children to get comfortable with where we are now and not consistently strive for better and demand more. I hope to serve each and every student in District 2 if I am elected to the Community Education Council for District 2.
CRAIG SLUTZKIN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M340	NO	NO	I believe that the job of schools is to EDUCATE. I am running for the CEC because I want to fight for our D2’s schools to do a great job educating all our children. My son is 5 “I’m invested in this community and will be for years to come. I’m a sole parent and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, a community of parents still growing in numbers. And while I’ll bring these unique perspectives to the council, I will represent everyone. I may be relatively new to the system as a parent of a pre-k student, but I am not new to NYC public schools. I attended public schools growing up in NYC and have have been the Co-President of the Townsend Harris High School Alumni Association for over 15 years. I have worked closely with every principal in the school’s history and participated in the DOE selection committees for three principals. Townsend Harris High School is one of the best schools in the state, and I have fought for many years to keep its standards high. That kind of advocacy is what I want to bring to D2. We should be fighting to keep our schools ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS while serving the socio-emotional needs of all our students and celebrating the richness of our diversity. I like to work WITH people, as opposed to going into a discussion looking to fight with everyone. Watching the D2 CEC meetings this year has been painful for many of us. If elected, I pledge to work with other CEC members, even if they disagree with me. As a member of Manhattan Community Board Five for eight years, I have worked with many groups who have been at opposite sides of the spectrum to try to reach optimal solutions. Not everyone has to agree, but we all need to show respect for each other’s opinions and communicate. If elected to represent the families of D2 I will work collaboratively, advocate passionately and bring the decorum and civility that we all want to see in the important discussions surrounding our children’s education.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Susan Sonstein	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M290	NO	NO	I would like to serve on the Education Council to be a voice for the parents in the Public School system. During these past months , many of us feel powerless over how things have been going for our kids ! I have 4 children , 2 of which are currently enrolled in public schools (4 th and 11 th grade). I know the curriculum well . I have volunteered for PTA service and Parent Rep service in the past few years . I would like to participate in our city providing quality of education for our children that is equitable to all in this city . We all need a voice in our childrenâ€™s curriculum . I also strongly feel our kids should be back at in person school just like the private and suburban schools are . That is truly equitable .
Susan Sonstein	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M416	YES	NO	I would like to serve on the Education Council to be a voice for the parents in the Public School system. During these past months , many of us feel powerless over how things have been going for our kids ! I have 4 children , 2 of which are currently enrolled in public schools (4 th and 11 th grade). I know the curriculum well . I have volunteered for PTA service and Parent Rep service in the past few years . I would like to participate in our city providing quality of education for our children that is equitable to all in this city . We all need a voice in our childrenâ€™s curriculum . I also strongly feel our kids should be back at in person school just like the private and suburban schools are . That is truly equitable .
CHRISTINA STANFIELD	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M312	NO	NO	I believe that public education should equally serve all children and families, but our current system encourages hoarding of public resources for the already privileged communities. It has been proved repeatedly that children who test as 'exceptional' do not actually differ from their peers in the long term. It is ridiculous that we make our children perform for tests and stranger adults to prove their worth during formative years, while they are still supposed to be given the time to develop in their personal and individual ways, at an individual pace. Can't we please treat all children equally and fairly? I believe we need to collectively agree that public school is for ALL children, that they ALL deserve to receive like education, and that our society will benefit overall from giving each child an equal chance at their future life through an equal education.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Daniel Swersky	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M059	NO	NO	<p>As the founding principal in my 9th year as principal, a 16-year educator, 11 year resident of CD 6, and father of two daughters that go to public school in our district, the most important experiences that hope to bring to the CEC are life experiences grounded in the passion for being in the service of others. I know we need to do better to educate all of our children. As a change maker with proven results in public education, I know we can. By working together, we can create the schools we want and deserve right here in our community. Specifically, my time as a principal seats me firmly at the intersection of community organizing and public policy. Navigating spaces ensure we deliver on the promises we make to students and their families requires goal setting, allocation of resources, progress monitoring, accountability and, most importantly, creating affirming spaces that allow for all of us to do our best work. This requires work in personnel and hiring, budgeting, law and policy, community engagement- all in the context of building transformational relationships. My time as a principal in Washington Heights has taught me that promises, especially promises to children, are sacred. We make promises that we will create schools that will affirm and provide the spaces to learn and grow- we need to keep those promises. We make promises that our schools will be academically rigorous- we need to keep those promises. We make promises to families that trust us with the most important thing in their world- we need to keep those promises. Some of the particular issues that I would love to bring my energy, knowledge and passion to are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reopening Schools: It is critical that our schools open safely! The need to open schools with strong considerations for social emotional learning, along with so many other aspects of reopening schools effectively, is something that I have personal experience with and have prioritized in my actions with my school and my daughters. School facilities: COVID has made it clear that our infrastructure is aging and is in need of investment. Universal Pre-K: There is a tremendous need for us to increase the number of seats in our community. Afterschool Services: Increasing access to afterschool programming is essential to the well-rounded education of our children. It is my commitment to following through on promises, a commitment to ensuring that the future is brighter than the past, that I will bring to the CEC. There is such tremendous untapped potential for our district, our city, and our country and I hope to be involved at the CEC level to help do my part to build on the progress that has already been made. This is the life work that I have committed to and that I hope to continue as part of the CEC. I look forward to your consideration. With Gratitude, Danny Swersky
YOSHIFUMI TAN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M217	NO	YES	
ANAIS TEKERIAN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M150	NO	NO	<p>I have been a public school parent for 11 years and I have volunteered yearly in my girls' elementary school. As the multi-lingual child of immigrants and a music teacher and performer, I value issues of multiculturalism and the importance of the arts, among other values that should be key to the public educational sytem. In these times, on top of my concerns around the segregation and inequalities in our schools, I am very much concerned about the way the lockdowns are affecting our children. I am concerned that their psychological and physical well-being is being compromised by policies that are driven by excessive fear and a lack of true regard for the children's health. In light of the fact that schools in other countries with repressive lockdowns, like Belgium and Ireland, still allow the children to attend school 5 days a week without masks, we need to rethink the policies that are allowing for the psychological and physical harm done to our children through the current dictates of the DOE.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
ANAIS TEKERIAN	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	03M859	NO	NO	I have been a public school parent for 11 years and I have volunteered yearly in my girls' elementary school. As the multi-lingual child of immigrants and a music teacher and performer, I value issues of multiculturalism and the importance of the arts, among other values that should be key to the public educational sytem. In these times, on top of my concerns around the segregation and inequalities in our schools, I am very much concerned about the way the lockdowns are affecting our children. I am concerned that their psychological and physical well-being is being compromised by policies that are driven by excessive fear and a lack of true regard for the children's health. In light of the fact that schools in other countries with repressive lockdowns, like Belgium and Ireland, still allow the children to attend school 5 days a week without masks, we need to rethink the policies that are allowing for the psychological and physical harm done to our children through the current dictates of the DOE.
SHEPHATHIAH TOWNSEND	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M340	NO	NO	I was born in NYC, went to NYC public schools (PS41 and Stuyvesant High School) and am the parent of two children currently in public school. My daughter is in a D75 program - she has autism. And my son attends PS340. With experience that spans generations and programs (from gifted to special needs) I feel confident that I can bring a level of expertise to whichever council I join. I have spent the past six years advocating for my daughter, ensuring that she receives the adequate and appropriate education to which she is entitled. I would very much like the opportunity to advocate for children across all boroughs (on a city-wide council) or closer to home (were I to sit on the District 2 council). I was raised by a single parent and understand how important a strong public school system is for all families - regardless of income. As someone who has attended both mainstream schools and one of the specialized programs the city has to offer, and now has a child in a program that serves children with special needs, I have seen firsthand the diverse issues our school system faces. I feel confident in my ability to advocate for one population while still being mindful of another. Confident in my ability to push for equity across all populations, rather than lifting one up to the detriment of others. I came up in this city during the 1980s and have seen NYC pull itself back from the brink of disaster. I have also seen what happens when we only have an eye trained on money, over people, how that can be harmful as well. I have served on the board of the Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association (including being second-vice president) and conducted alumni interviews for my alma mater (Dartmouth College). Continuing to be an active member of my community is important to me. While COVID forced me (and most New Yorkers) to press pause, I am ready and excited to get back in the game. I hope you will consider me for a position on the council and look forward to getting to work together.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
SHEPHATHIAH TOWNSEND	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	75M094	YES	NO	I was born in NYC, went to NYC public schools (PS41 and Stuyvesant High School) and am the parent of two children currently in public school. My daughter is in a D75 program - she has autism. And my son attends PS340. With experience that spans generations and programs (from gifted to special needs) I feel confident that I can bring a level of expertise to whichever council I join. I have spent the past six years advocating for my daughter, ensuring that she receives the adequate and appropriate education to which she is entitled. I would very much like the opportunity to advocate for children across all boroughs (on a city-wide council) or closer to home (were I to sit on the District 2 council). I was raised by a single parent and understand how important a strong public school system is for all families - regardless of income. As someone who has attended both mainstream schools and one of the specialized programs the city has to offer, and now has a child in a program that serves children with special needs, I have seen firsthand the diverse issues our school system faces. I feel confident in my ability to advocate for one population while still being mindful of another. Confident in my ability to push for equity across all populations, rather than lifting one up to the detriment of others. I came up in this city during the 1980s and have seen NYC pull itself back from the brink of disaster. I have also seen what happens when we only have an eye trained on money, over people, how that can be harmful as well. I have served on the board of the Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association (including being second-vice president) and conducted alumni interviews for my alma mater (Dartmouth College). Continuing to be an active member of my community is important to me. While COVID forced me (and most New Yorkers) to press pause, I am ready and excited to get back in the game. I hope you will consider me for a position on the council and look forward to getting to work together.
Michael Trinkle	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M177	NO	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
HONORIA TSANG	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M130	NO	NO	<p>Hi Voters! My name is Honoria Tsang, a former student of the NYC public school system from Kindergarten through 12th grade and is now back in the public school system but this time as parent. I was a first-generation American student and I cannot thank the schools I attended enough for their support of non-English speaking households like mine ensuring that my family had a chance to provide the best education possible for the next generation. NYC public schools offered me numerous opportunities to both embrace and improve my community and I would love to have a chance to give back to the same school system. Even though my experiences as a student in public schools were exceptional, I recognize that not every student in the same school system had the same level of support and there were large gaps across different communities that could have been closed. With the city under duress in the past year due to the pandemic, these disparities and unseen cracks even in the best schools became much more apparent and undeniable. Even with these gaps, I saw the community of parents, teachers, and school administrators draw closer to provide top notch education despite the difficulties. If there is a silver lining to the pandemic, it is being able to witness the weaving of a different tighter type of fabric of the community with the hands of forward thinkers, problem solvers, and compassionate educators at the loom. To be a more active part of that process would be a dream come true. While I am proud of my career in healthcare, something I would not have been able to do without being a successful product of the NYC public school system, I am first and foremost a parent who cares about my child current and future state. I cannot imagine the success of my child without the success of those around him. Allow me the opportunity to continue the good work of uplifting the community by promoting educators and education. Thank you so much!</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Jake Vander Linden	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M116	NO	NO	<p>Good morning, New York City Parents. Iâ€™m Jake and I am running for Community Education Council. I would relish the chance to represent the needs of our students as we emerge from one of the biggest challenges our world has ever faced. Our learners have disproportionally felt the burden of the pandemic, but our kids are resilient, and we owe them the best chance to succeed in the years ahead. The role of our partner educators, the city and the school system is vital to our collective success. Whatâ€™s most important to me as a parent? Technology â€“ this has become an obvious driver of learning - and unfortunately a barrier to many students who donâ€™t have access - in the last two school years. As we re-enter school buildings full time, the acceleration of the role of technology will continue and we must fund, manage and ensure equal and in fact superior access to give our kids the best chance at learning and thriving. NYC should be leading here. Infrastructure â€“ Our schools need to be safe and government buildings are the most neglected part of our urban landscape. Schools are no exception. Covid has exposed this problem in spades. Ventilation. Classroom sizes. Recreation space. Rooms for independent learning. Are these needs sufficiently met? Likely not. Further, schools are the centers of our neighborhoods. Theyâ€™re the weekend market; itâ€™s often where we vote; itâ€™s where many might get a needed meal. The school space has a bigger impact our communities than we realize. Letâ€™s meet and exceed that need. Inclusion - I identify as a progressive. From my view, NYC schools have an amazing curriculum that is built on respect while teaching real-world values. I am amazed at the reading materials my daughter brings home that teach both these values and address her core education needs. This should continue but also, letâ€™s build bridges in the real world to make sure that she and her classmates understand and respect that experiences of all people in history and today.</p>
TIFFANY VANDERPOOL	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M422	NO	NO	<p>Serving on an Education Council is important to me because I want to see district 2 students and all students flourish. The pandemic has been hard on everyone from parents, to students and DOE personnel alike, As the current PTA Co-President & Member of the SLT, I see the ends and outs of everyday life from the Student and Administrative perspective. I do my best to help our students and families succeed by providing knowledge, access to services and strong leadership working directly with the parent coordinator. My goal is to harness the Education Council resources and knowledge to help all-district 2 parents and students excel in their academic goals and beyond. As a project management professional, I have completed large scale projects and established programs around North America. I would bring that same drive and determination to Serving on an Education Council.</p>
GUILLERMO VERNON	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M033	NO	NO	<p>I believe that we collectively share a responsibility to ensure that all Americans have access to a good education. This is the basis of our democracy and our society. I can help: my background is in management consulting. I think that it is both important and possible to establish a fact base on where we are and use it to develop a road map to get to our common vision of where we would like to be. We should work with all the existing stakeholders to achieve these goals. The times are exceptional. Let's call it an opportunity to change for the better.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
BEATRIZ VOLLMER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M104	NO	NO	Beatriz Vollmer Coles As the mother of 5 children who have all been through the NYC public school system, I have experienced many of the hopes and expectations of New York parents first hand. I served on the SLT as well as on the PTA at PS59 The Beekman Hill International School, where all of my children started out. They subsequently went to different middle and high schools, including Quest to Learn, Clinton, Baruch and the Harbor School. My youngest child is currently at MS104 Simon Baruch Middle School. I am a PhD in philosophy, having specialized in gender issues when the concept was just beginning in the 1990s. As a college level professor in my early career, I was also able to get a glimpse of education from the teachers' point of view. As a dual citizen (of Venezuela and the US), I also have a good understanding of the reality lived by many immigrants and ethnic minorities in the melting pot which makes up this great city. Due to my education in other countries and my multi-cultural heritage, I am fluent in English, Spanish, French, German and Italian, as well as understanding Creole. Being on the CEC is a way that I hope to give back to the public school community, which has done so much for my children, while also looking out for school children's interests going forward.
MILENA VUKELIC	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M217	NO	NO	I am 45 years old, mother of two wonderful girls educated in NYC public school system and am running for Education Council seat because I believe our kids should remain our highest priority in these tumultuous times. As a physician scientist, life-long learner and an educator I will bring experience acquired volunteering on committee on education of the American College of Rheumatology, lobbying for better patient care on Capitol Hill through Advocates for Arthritis and numerous hospital committees. Ever since my kids started school I continuously sought opportunities to improve classroom environment through my role as classroom parent. I am passionate about education and believe that I can effectively increase parents voice in the legislature. Also, in life I am doer. I will work diligently and collaboratively with all council members and will act in the best interest for all our kids and their bright future.
KAREN WALKER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M158	NO	NO	I am a parent of two children in public school. In addition I work as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in private practice with children, adolescents , adults and their families.
KAREN WALKER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	03M479	NO	NO	I am a parent of two children in public school. In addition I work as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in private practice with children, adolescents , adults and their families.
AMANDA WILLIAMS	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M111	NO	NO	As the city is undergoing many changes that will affect the educational offerings available to our students and hopefully ultimately level the playing field for all students, I would like to be a part of making lasting, and effective change toward these measures. I am an active member of the PTA at both of my daughters' schools and am active in their classrooms. I am hoping to have a wider impact by becoming involved on a district wide or citywide level. I have a legal background and have a great interest in increasing access to an equal education for all children. I think this background will be very useful in this role. Thank you for considering me to be a part of this council.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
AMANDA WILLIAMS	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	06M314	NO	NO	As the city is undergoing many changes that will affect the educational offerings available to our students and hopefully ultimately level the playing field for all students, I would like to be a part of making lasting, and effective change toward these measures. I am an active member of the PTA at both of my daughters' schools and am active in their classrooms. I am hoping to have a wider impact by becoming involved on a district wide or citywide level. I have a legal background and have a great interest in increasing access to an equal education for all children. I think this background will be very useful in this role. Thank you for considering me to be a part of this council.
JODIE WILSON	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M003	NO	NO	I stand for equity, positive change and an end to the resource hoarding G&T program and (inherently biased) standardised testing.
BRADLEY WITOVER	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M158	NO	NO	

[illegible]

[illegible]

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
LI HUA WU	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M131	NO	YES	My name is Lihua Wu. I moved from Taiwan to New York in 2011. My three daughters started studying in public schools in New York City in 2016. They are now in the second, sixth and seventh grades at PS.42 and MS131, respectively. The reason why I am interested in running for one of the eleven voluntary members of the New York City Community Education Council of District 2 is because I know that the Community Education Council is an education policy advisory group with responsibilities that include reviewing and evaluating the school district's education plans and other issues. I want to help my children's public schools to participate in and discuss the school's educational plans and policies with the schools, parents, and community members. Together, we can provide meaningful suggestions for the schools and students, such as keeping the New York City Specialized High School Test, keeping the New York State Standardized Tests for English, Mathematics, and Science from the third grade to the eighth grade, and keeping the high school Regents exams as the graduation tests for New York City high school students. Only by taking various standardized examinations can students seriously and systematically review the learning materials, master the basic knowledge of each subject, build up the solid foundation of all the subjects, and create a brighter and glorious future for students' advanced studies and careers. I recently founded a non-profit organization the New York Community League to serve the residents of the Chinese communities in Chinatown, NYC and Staten Island. The goal is to help new immigrants have self-confidence, overcome language difficulties, adapt to the learning environment of NYC's public schools, and understand American culture. If I can become a voluntary member of CEC2, I will help the students achieve goals and make greater academic progress. Together, we will make NYC's Public Schools and students great again!
YIFENG XIAO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M217	NO	YES	
YIFENG XIAO	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M289	NO	YES	
BIN XIE	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M442	NO	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Amit Yadav	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M281	NO	YES	Dear Parents and officials, I am a Post Graduate in Science, Commerce and History from reputed Universities in India. I have been a student, academic and an instructor in my country. I have been teaching officers of Indian Government in a elite institution. Regarding experience of running an organization, I have wide experience of being administrator of various government offices. I served in various community serving organizations. Here I am serving in United Nations Headquarters and my both children are studying in River School. My vision is to enhance the overall development of the children in New York Schools and provide them the best possible opportunity in the field of education. The focus will be on overall development of the child and making them an asset for the society. The school must be a home for them and teaching them equality, freedom and justice. They must ingrain the motto "One for all, All for one". Thanks
RASA ZARNEGAR	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M527	NO	NO	Looking to the future we need to ensure strong educational values with an emphasis on safety and inclusion. Given these testing times we need candidates that support the educational goals of our children, that have been severely impacted by the pandemic. Moreover, we need candidates that will ensure our children and teachers are learning and teaching in safe environments and incorporate a culture of diversity and inclusion. As a parent of a multicultural child and a physician that worked the front line during the pandemic and was deeply involved in the remote learning efforts of our children. I believe I can bring a unique perspective to this role and I hope you share this belief.
YUN ZHANG	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M089	NO	NO	When I first held my daughter in my arms in the winter of 2015, I suddenly realized being a parent comes with great responsibility. As she grows and starts to make friends in school, I realize that the responsibility is shared among all parents to create the environment and situation that best serves this country’s future - our children. And the best way to help our children grow, is by continuously improving their education. As a community education council member, I will diligently participate in community education programs, and assess their impact on our students achievements. I will also actively review and advertise for our school’s capital needs, and make plans, proposals, and source help for our school and students to grow and achieve. I am a witness of how high quality education changed my life. Education is the key thing that allowed me, a small city girl born in China, to become a PhD, a Computer Scientist, and a technology leader who keeps on pushing the boundaries. And I am keen on giving high quality education to every kid in this great city. High quality education is not just about the knowledge we teach our kids, but the opportunities you give to our kids to explore, to inspire and be inspired, while respecting everyone’s background. Trained as a classic computer scientist, I fully understand not only the important role technology plays in our children’s education today, but also understands how important it is for our children to receive education outside of the technology world to kindle their curiosity and sensitivity to the physical world. As a Managing Director at work, I run an engineering team for a business, which brings me tremendous experience in managing a balance sheet, allocating resources properly, reviewing proposals, evaluating options, making tradeoffs and hard choices. With my experience and my enthusiasm, I am sure I could serve well in the community education council, fulfill my responsibility and make my contribution to our children’s future.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
INNA ZHAVAEVA	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M051	NO	YES	My name is Inna Selvin. I am fluent in Russian, Mandarin Chinese, and English. I have my Ph.D. degree from Chinese Culture University (Taiwan). As a parent of two children, I understand all needs, challenges and interests of Elementary and Middle schoolers. Also, I have over 10 years experience of teaching at Russian schools and Taiwanese universities. My deep understanding of European, West and East culture and traditions will be a great help in educating our children. Thank you.
INNA ZHAVAEVA	CEC2	Community Education Council (02)	02M297	NO	YES	My name is Inna Selvin. I am fluent in Russian, Mandarin Chinese, and English. I have my Ph.D. degree from Chinese Culture University (Taiwan). As a parent of two children, I understand all needs, challenges and interests of Elementary and Middle schoolers. Also, I have over 10 years experience of teaching at Russian schools and Taiwanese universities. My deep understanding of European, West and East culture and traditions will be a great help in educating our children. Thank you.