

Al-Hassan Kanu, Community Advocate & Candidate for Council District 27, Announces Policies to Give Parents & Communities A Voice in Local Schools

As a father himself, Al-Hassan Kanu, community advocate and candidate for Council District 27, knows firsthand the important role schools play in Southeast Queens, and wants to make sure parents and teachers have real input to decide what's best for our children's education.

“We cannot rely on people in the Tweed building to tell us what is good for our schools, and the policies I announce today empowers parents, teachers and school administrators to decide what makes sense for our young scholars to achieve,” said **Al-Hassan Kanu**.

To reform the education system to give communities the voice they deserve and ensure positive educational outcomes, Al-Hassan Kanu announced the following policies he will work to implement as a City Council, including working with State legislative colleagues on the needed changes in state law:

- Require the approval of Community Education Councils before both district and charter school co-locations can take place;
- Legislate a plan that would assess the needed upgrades for community school districts, such as older infrastructure to provide air conditioners in the buildings and including in non-classroom spaces and wiring for technology;
- Reforming the Department of Education: Improve accountability and management by replacing the existing central Chancellor/PEP scheme with Borough Boards of seven individuals to function as B.O.C.E.S. (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services)-like entities to oversee education in each borough's high schools, the individual districts and "citywide" special education. In addition, this borough B.O.C.E.S. would provide transportation, food services, and some procurement and maintenance function as needed by the districts and individual schools. The Borough Boards would be appointed by the Borough Presidents and confirmed by each Borough's Delegation of the City Council. Each Borough Board shall include at least four parents and four community school board members [This would mean that at least one school board member must also be a parent.]. At least one parent each shall be a parent of a child in special education, high school or the middle and elementary school in the district. Parents must be involved in the process to select a central chancellor responsible to ensure overall compliance on education outcomes, financial management and accountability, as well as (a) monitoring; (b) ensuring that districts and their individual schools meet State educational standards; City-wide governance; (c) labor relations; (d) legal services; (e) oversight of B.O.C.E.S. delivery of transportation; (f) oversight of B.O.C.E.S. delivery of food services; and employee licensing and the administration of salary and employee benefits.
- Making sure that the Queens libraries are accessible community centers with branches open seven days per week, 10-14 hours each day.

“By making sure the priorities for our school are made by us, we can ensure students are getting the resources they need to be prepared for the future. I have been proud to work with our principals and teachers during my time working for Senator, and former Council member Leroy Comrie and Councilman I. Daneek Miller in the City Council, and look forward to continuing this work when I have the privilege of representing the 27th Councilmanic District.”

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