

LOCAL 372

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NYC Board Of Education Employees
DISTRICT COUNCIL 37 AFSCME AFL-CIO

Santos Crespo Jr., President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

**Mickey Melendez, Assistant to the President
(212) 815-1372**

“Once again we are in a fight – and standing together it’s a fight we can win!”

On Wednesday, October 5, 2011 Local 372, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz., Jr, New Settlement Parent Action Committee, United Parents of Highbridge parents, teachers, community activists, elected officials and labor leaders gathered at P.S./I.S. 218 Rafael Hernandez Dual Language Magnet School in District 9, to tell Mayor Bloomberg “Save Our Schools! Save Our Communities!”

Bureaucrats at the Department of Education are preparing pink slips and layoff notices for over 700 school aides, parent and community coordinators, health aides and family workers. They have been at work since September and if the Department of Education has its way, these members will be gone in two day, by October 7, 2011. “Most of those job losses would be felt in East New York, Brownsville, Williamsburg, Washington Heights, Rockaway, South Jamaica and the South Bronx. These communities are already in need of enhanced social services and are suffering with higher unemployment rates,” stated President Santos Crespo. “The economic sense in laying off city workers does not add up.”

At a time when school enrollments, dropout rates, reports of school violence, bullying, substance abuse and truancy are rising, the Department of Education plans to remove the very people who provide the basic, necessary and crucial services needed to keep our children safe, focused and ready for the classroom.

Our members, our children, our teachers and our communities cannot afford to let this to happen.

Over the course of the past three years our union and schools have suffered the loss of more than 1,600 school aides/health aides alone. If you add in our cafeteria staff, loaders and handlers, Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialist (SAPIS), bookkeepers, and other workers we have lost more than 2,200 men and women since 2008.

Our children, our teachers and our communities deserve better. We will not go away silently.