

LOCAL 372

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LOCAL 372
Board Of Education Employees
DISTRICT COUNCIL 37 AFSCME AFL-CIO
Santos Crespo Jr., President



In the cafeteria - In the school yard - Local 372 members - Our Job is Kids

Local 372 Call to Action Battle Lines are Drawn - Our Jobs are on the Line Press Conference to Protest Layoffs

**Join Councilwoman Inez Dickens, 9th Council District to protest the
potential layoffs of Local 372 members in Manhattan
Tuesday, September 20, 12:00 Noon
St. Nicholas Park - 135th St. & St. Nicholas
Across from Bread and Roses High School**

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

As our members are returning to their jobs, bureaucrats at the Department of Education are preparing pink slips and layoff notices for nearly 800 school aides, parent and community coordinators, health aides and family workers. They will be at work in September and if the Department of Education has its way, all will be gone by October.

On negotiations:

* We did not hear one word from the DOE and in fact, were not able to even meet with the DOE until recently.

On the effect on communities:

* Based on what we were told, Central Brooklyn, East New York, Upper Manhattan and the South Bronx, communities most in need of school support services, will be the hardest hit by these cuts.

On losses already suffered:

* Over the course of the past three years, we have suffered the loss of more than 2,200 school aides/health aides, parent coordinators and other valuable support service positions.

On the need to make cuts:

* DOE has just been awarded \$255 million in Race to the Top funds. While DOE must spend those dollars on specific programs, money that had already been budgeted in those areas could now be used to provide support services.

The important work we perform:

* We are constantly hearing that teachers belong in the classroom teaching. Yet, time and again when the DOE looks to make cuts, they eliminate the very people who were hired to provide the necessary support services for the smooth and efficient operation of schools which allow our teachers to teach.

On Mayoral Control:

* We were told it would strengthen the voice of the local community within the schools. Why is it that when its time to create a budget millions are spent on nameless, faceless consultants while school aides, parent coordinators and others FROM THE COMMUNITY are kicked out the door?

**Our children, our teachers and our communities deserve better. We will not go away silently.
For information, please contact Mickey Melendez, Executive Assistant to the President at (212) 815-1372**