

LOCAL 372

NYC BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES
DISTRICT COUNCIL 37 AFSCME AFL-CIO

Santos Crespo, President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chancellor Walcott's Hypocrisy Road Show Suffers from Creditably

School Chancellor Dennis Walcott has taken his three-card monte card game and his lies on the road. On Tuesday October 25 at Seward Park High School, the chancellor was met by members of Occupy Wall Street (OWS) and Local 372 members. Unable to speak when grilled about layoffs by OWS parents, the chancellor was forced to retreat to a third floor classroom to continue his "conversation" with teachers and parents.

On Wednesday October 26 at Park West High School, the chancellor was met outside the school by parent demonstrators demanding for him to reinstate over 640 school support staff laid off on Oct. 7th. The chancellor was introduced by Jessie Mojica, the new Director of Family and Parent Engagement, who has a questionable past relating to his tenure as Director of Education Services with former Bronx Borough President Carrion. Some parents and former DOE officials felt that Mojica was more concern with charting his career than resolving parents' concerns.

The chancellor addressed the audience of mostly DOE employee's on swing swift (they were allowed to come in late in order to attend in the evening) and presented his "new" plan for parent engagement. He spoke about mutual respect but demonstrated no respect to Local 372 when the DOE failed to negotiate in good faith. He also failed to establish a sense of respect when summoned before a joint hearing of the NYC Council Finance and Education Committees.

The chancellor outlined ways in which to increase parent involvement. The establishment of a Parent Academy was proposed as a new and innovative idea. The truth of the matter was that Parent Academies were established in the first years of Mayoral Control and quickly disappeared because their funding decreased with every new (presently at 4) reorganization.

He went on to publically thank parent coordinators for the work they do every day in schools. This lie ballooned into the room when most people present know that he just laid off parent coordinators on October 7th. People further know that parent coordinators have become optional in high schools.

Fairy tale storyteller Walcott went on to emphatically state that "we" must raise the bar. Local 372 President Santos Crespo Jr., present for the meeting asked "how do you raise the bar but provide no support staff to our children". Mr. Crespo sees this as a clear contradiction of terms.

The chancellor did nevertheless publically admit what most people already knew "high schools are not preparing students for college". He further acknowledged that "schools are not welcoming to parents".

Local 372 applauds Chancellor Walcott for finally taking his head out of the ground and acknowledging what parents have been saying since the beginning of Mayoral control.

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