

LOCAL 372

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LOCAL 372
Board Of Education Employees
DISTRICT COUNCIL 37 AFSCME AFL-CIO

Santos Crespo Jr., President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2011

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

On Friday, September 23, 2011, Assemblyman Scarborough, Local 372, parents, teachers, community activists, elected officials and labor leaders gathered at PS 15 - Jackie Robinson School, to tell Mayor Bloomberg “Save Our Schools! Save Our Communities!”

As Local 372 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, these members will be gone by October. “Most of those job losses would be felt in East New York, Brownsville, Williamsburg, Washington Heights, 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.”

“I am deeply concerned about these planned layoffs. These layoffs has threatened the most vulnerable in our city, many of them, single mothers with children will have a devastating ripple affect on our economy. They must be rolled back.” -Assemblyman William Scarborough

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.