

School Board to lay plans for lobbying effort

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The Staten Island Community School Board will meet at noon tomorrow to plan its fight for local interests in Albany later this month.

"Even though some of us are going up, we want to make sure that all board members will be able to give us their input. We hope to share all their concerns," said Chairwoman Olivia Brennan.

Heads of all educational organizations and Schools Superintendent Louis DeSario have been invited to the meeting to suggest topics for the full-day agenda in Albany.

The discussion will be held in the district office at 211 Daniel Low Terrace, Tompkinsville. The public is invited but must submit suggestions in writing.

Board member Jerry Cammarata, who organized the Albany junket, said board members will not only push for more budget money, but will lobby for the creation of an independent Island school board or a Local Educational Agency.

Unlike school boards in the city that function under the city Board of Education, LEAs are autonomous and operate directly under the state education commissioner.

The Island district should be given the opportunity to become

an experimental model LEA for city school districts, Cammarata said.

"Staten Island has always been acclaimed as having the best schools. It will give us a chance to see decentralization at its very best," he said. "We will give our good reasons of why we deserve it, and may stand a good chance of exciting the legislature into going along with this."

"We will demonstrate that in that autonomy, decentralization can uniquely survive with innovated educational programs," he said.

Cammarata said the group plans to meet with the state Construction Authority to lobby for the construction of a South Shore school.

Board members Jane Tardell, Jeffrey d'Auguste, Betty Martinucci and Mrs. Brennan will also go on the Feb. 26 trip. Lodging will be at their own expense.

The group plans to meet with Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly, Assemblyman Robert Straniere, Sen. Martin Connor and a representative of Senate majority leader Ralph Marino.

At its monthly meeting tonight at 8 in PS 13, Rosebank, the board is expected to approve a \$500 fee to continue its membership in the New York City School Boards Association.