

CSB elects officers, approves AIDS curriculum change

By Chris Franz

The Community School Board (CSB) elected a new slate of officers last week, and took action on proposed changes to the AIDS curriculum at its monthly meeting in IS 72, New Springville.

Board member Jerry Cammarata withdrew from the running for chairman at the last minute, citing his recent appointment by Borough President Guy Molinari to the Commission on Enrollment Growth at the central Board of Education. Cammarata, the board's secretary, had been publicly discussing his campaign for the chairmanship, but said the new position would make it difficult for him to meet his commitments as chairman, so bowed out of the race.

Eleanor Conforti, nominated by Ellen Trapp, was elected chairwoman, replacing Olivia Brennan. James Chin, nominated by Ira Goldstein, was re-elected vice chairman. Ira Goldstein, nominated by Chin, was elected secretary, replacing Cammarata, and Ellen Trapp, nominated by Chin, was re-elected treasurer.

All of the votes for these offices were 5-4 splits: Conforti, Chin, Goldstein, Trapp and Brennan all voted for the proposed candidates. Cammarata, Sal Ballarino, Bunny Reddington and Robert Sacchi all voted "no" on the nominations. The four in the minority constitute the board's staunch conservatives, while Chin and Goldstein are the board's clear liberals. Trapp, Brennan and Conforti usually voted with the conservatives, but some rumors of a deal, possibly brokered by a former Island Democratic politician, circulated, leading some to speculate that Cammarata pulled out of the race when it became clear that he would lose.

The board's conservatives were clearly unhappy about the result.

All of the officers will serve a one year term.

In other business, the board formally approved changes to the AIDS curriculum for the district. The board had initially approved the 1987 State Instructional

Guide for use in the schools, forging a more explicit guide, in June, 1993. Then-Chancellor Joseph Fernandez ordered revisions in the guide to bring it into compliance with new state regulations. District Superintendent Christy

the state mandates. Kimi Nakata of the Staten Island AIDS Task Force criticized the revisions as not being explicit enough in the information provided to children.

The board also approved the appointment of Julie Saieh-Wolfe

District 31 Approved Revisions to the "New York State Health AIDS Instructional Guide for Grades K-12 - 1987"

Revisions include: extension of description of methods of HIV transmission to include tattooing, ear/body piercing, ingestion of mother's milk, and "blood brother" rituals. **Guidelines remind teachers that parents should be informed of their right to withdraw children from certain lessons if they prefer to teach them themselves.**

Other specific revisions:

•Lesson 27 B, bottom of page 106: "Until you ask a lot of questions about his or her past sexual experience and drug use, don't have sex with anyone." **Deleted.**

•Same lesson, same page: "The more people you have sex with, the greater the chances you may get infected, so don't have sex with multiple partners." **Revised to read:** Having sex with even one partner may result in your becoming infected with HIV and developing AIDS. Practicing abstinence avoids unwanted pregnancies, avoids the contacting HIV through sexual contact, and lessens their associated emotional and physical problems.

•Top of page 107: "The chance of blood or semen entering your bloodstream is very high during anal sex, since it can cause tearing of delicate tissues, so avoid anal sex." **Revised to read:** The chance of blood or semen entering your bloodstream is high during sexual intercourse, since it can cause tearing of delicate tissues.

•Center of page 107: "Sexual intercourse: Physical sexual contact between individuals that involves the genitalia of at least one person. Includes vaginal intercourse, oral intercourse, and anal intercourse." **Revised to read:** Sexual intercourse: Physical sexual contact between individuals.

Cugini undertook the modifications, which were approved by the board in discussion, but the board never took a formal vote on the revisions. Loretta Prisco, of Parents Action Committee for Education (PACE) has brought suit against the board for failing to take public votes on a number of items, including this matter.

Goldstein voted against the changes, saying that they "don't go far enough" in using specific language in discussion of the transmission of the HIV virus. The rest of the board voted for the changes, though Ballarino, Cammarata, Reddington and Sacchi said they voted under protest and only because the board must bring the curriculum into compliance with

as principal of IS 75 and of Kathleen Schultz as assistant principal at PS 55.

Beginning in September, classes for children at PS 22 on Forest Ave. near Richmond Ave. in grades 4 and 5 will be in the annex to IS 51 on Regis Dr. to relieve overcrowding at PS 22. IS 51's sixth graders will be moved from the annex to the main building.