

# Condoms Voted Out of Schools

By Paul Moses

STAFF WRITER

The Board of Education last night voted 4-3 to implement a new AIDS educational curriculum that takes condom demonstrations out of the classroom and stresses abstinence as the most effective way to avoid pregnancy and disease.

To the catcalls of some 15 demonstrators, many of them from the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, the board members voted as expected.

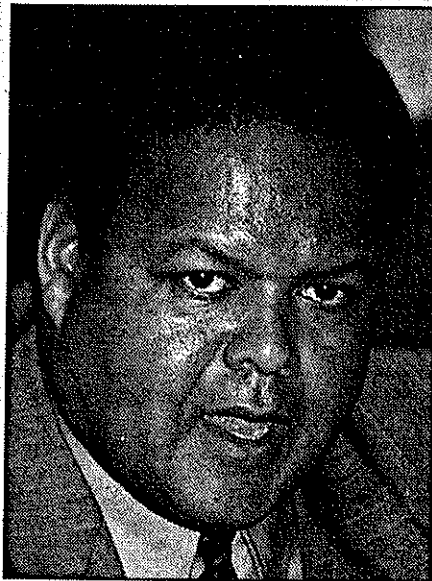
Board President and Queens representative Carol Gresser voted for the change and was joined by Mayoral representative Ninfa Segarra, Irene Impellizzeri, and Staten Island representative Jerry Cammarata. Voting against were Brooklyn representative William Thompson, Sandra Lerner of the Bronx and Luis Reyes of Manhattan.

Thompson called the vote "very inconsistent" because he said they had just voted to keep such instruction in the classroom in recent months.

Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew was absent from the meeting.

Cammarata, the Staten Island representative, said the new curriculum was needed because it is closer to the values of New York parents than the current one. "If there was evidence to show that condom distribution has reduced pregnancy, promiscuity and improved public health, then we would have to give it some thought," he said.

William Andrews, the chairman of the Board of Ed's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council, was a prime force in the new curriculum. Andrews, a Queens Village resident who was appointed by Gresser,



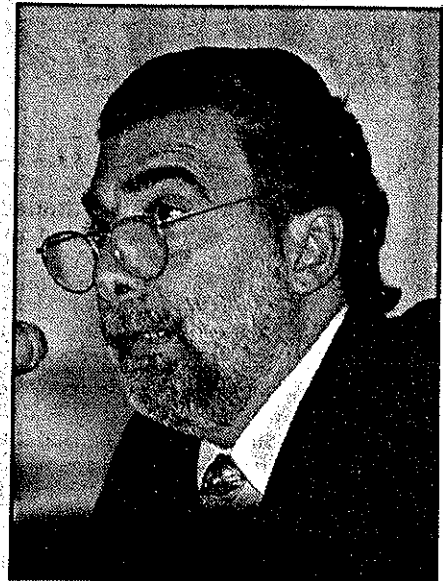
Crew

said he was pleased with the curriculum but would go even farther if he could. "I don't believe there should be sexual instruction in the schools at all," he said.

Crew's proposal switches from Chancellor Ramon Cortines' "opt out" compromise to an "opt in."

Cortines had defused the divisive issue by allowing parents to remove their children from the instruction on condoms or from requesting condoms in school. His predecessor, Joseph Fernandez, was ousted in 1992 after insisting on making condoms available to all students.

As the board prepared for its meeting



Cammarata

last night, 10 demonstrators from the militant ACT-UP group were escorted from the downtown Brooklyn Board of Ed. headquarters after they stood up with placards marked "Shame."

"This has nothing to do with education. This is a political ploy for Rudy Crew's advancement," said Alice Eisenberg, 16, a student at Beacon High School in Manhattan.

"Dr. Crew could have taken a more reasoned approach and called in health educators," said Erica Zurer, a member of the board's 23-person AIDS Advisory Council.

The board also unanimously approved pay increases for top managers.