

THE ISLAND

School board ready to take over Petrides School

■ **Members decide to take the chancellor up on his offer**

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The Staten Island Community School Board is expected to vote itself in as overseer of the new Michael J. Petrides Educational complex.

The board intends to approve the resolution at its meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Laurie Intermediate School, New Springville. Board members also might vote

at that meeting to delete controversial phrases from a new HIV/AIDS curriculum for intermediate school kids.

Schools Chancellor Ramon Cortines told five board members during a meeting last week they could decide who will run the 42-acre campus and the new laboratory school it will house.

"We see it as a gift," said board member Ira Goldstein. "The chancellor is offering to pay for the school for three years until we have it budgeted as a regular District 31 school."

Goldstein said the public prep school for grades kindergarten through 12 will fall under the shared jurisdiction of the commu-

nity school board and High School Superintendent Noel Kriftcher. The school still will be guided by the chancellor, who has said it must be open to children of all academic abilities.

The school board will govern the campus, and will oversee the rental to private and community groups of the theater, auditorium, cafeteria, lecture halls, basketball and tennis courts, and track, soccer and baseball fields.

The College of Staten Island is expected to vacate the 42-acre site by September when the new Petrides school will open.

"We won't get an offer like this again," said Board Chairwoman Eleanor Conforti during the

board's work session in Laurie Intermediate School, New Springville, earlier this week.

At its meeting next week, the board may vote to delete three controversial sentences in an AIDS curriculum for intermediate school kids. The statements are part of a true/false exercise for seventh-graders aimed at clearing up misconceptions about AIDS transmission.

Critics said the statements would prompt students to ask questions about HIV transmission that could lead teachers to talk about anal, oral and vaginal intercourse.

The sentences are:

■ Some people say that only

gay and bisexual men are likely to be infected with HIV.

■ Some people say that only prostitutes and people with multiple sexual partners are likely to be infected with HIV.

■ Some people say that if you use a condom when having intercourse, you are guaranteed not to get HIV if your sexual partner is infected.

Board member James Chin said he's opposed to deleting the statements.

"We should make sure that kids understand that anyone can be infected with HIV," he said. "This is again becoming a political battle and the kids are the ones who are being hurt."

Board member Jerry Cammarata, who wants to reject the "dictatorial" city curriculum, said he won't be satisfied with the revisions. Cammarata said he wants to wait until state guidelines have been completed and compare those to the city lesson plans.

"This is a duplication of the state and the city has spent far too much money on this," he said.

The chancellor asked that the board approve or reject the city curriculum by June 30. Board member Olivia Brennan said the board could postpone the vote, but added that board members cannot vote on the state guidelines because they haven't seen them.