

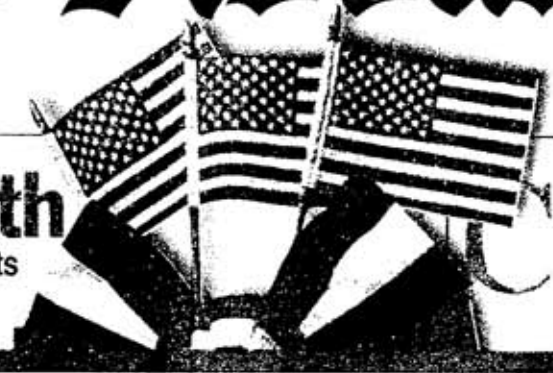
# Staten Island Advance

JULY 2, 1999

**7** Hero firefighter remembered for gleam in his eye

**E1 Fabulous fourth**  
Concerts, fireworks, races and contests are in store for us this weekend

**1** Our Yankees down 'c Mets' again



## Cammarata heads group representing school boards

By **MARJORIE HACK**  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Jerry Cammarata, Staten Island's representative on the Board of Education, yesterday assumed the chairmanship of the Conference of Big 5 School Districts.

The organization represents the local boards of education of the state's five largest school systems and works to advance solutions to problems shared by the districts. In addition to New York City, the group includes Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers. The five cities combined educate 42 percent of the state's public school students.

"It's an honor to represent the five largest school districts. Our common goal is to assure the budget and equality of services will be present in all of our large

school districts. We will be working with the mayors and board members in expanding the coalition of support on behalf of our children," said Cammarata.

According to New York state Regent Harold Levy from Manhattan, the five largest school districts are routinely under-funded while more suburban school systems receive a disproportionate share of state education money.

Levy makes his claim based on data contained in a document called the 655 Report which is issued annually by the state and itemizes, among other things, where the state's education dollars are allocated.

Cammarata will serve a one-year term as chairman. He replaces Marvin Jackson of Rochester.