

THE ISLAND

Cammarata to Crew: Give us a warning

■ **Island Board of Education wants to start search for a new chancellor now — unless city gets assurance it doesn't have to**

By **DON GROSS**
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Staten Island Board of Education representative Jerry Cammarata wants to start a search for a new schools chancellor — unless Rudy Crew, who currently holds that office, assures him he's staying in New York.

"If he gives me that personal assurance I will more than gladly withdraw my call for a search," Cammarata said.

Cammarata insisted that his call for a search for a new chancellor had nothing to do with the ongoing dispute between Crew and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani over the pace of school reform in the city.

"I have not talked to the mayor about my views," Cammarata said, although he said he had brought the subject up with Borough President Guy V. Molinari, a close Giuliani ally.

He insisted his displeasure came from fears over a lack of management of the nation's largest school system if Crew leaves before the end of his contract next June.

"We need stability to assure continued progress," he said. "I think Rudy Crew is one of the best chancellors New York has ever had. I would be glad to have him

stay on indefinitely."

The problem, as he sees it, is Crew's reported interest in taking a job running a training institute at the University of Washington.

"I have no problem with him wanting to take a job someplace else," Cammarata said. "I just want him to have the decency to tell us so that we can plan for the stability of the New York City schools."

The Island board representative's only criticism of Crew during a telephone interview was the manner in which he left his previous job as head of the education system in Tacoma, Wash.

"He never let anyone know he was interviewing for another job. He simply went back after we offered him the job and announced his resignation," Cammarata said. "I don't want him leaving New York in a similar lurch."

Cammarata also said that neither he nor anyone else on the board had called Crew to ask him about the persistent rumors that he was looking for work elsewhere.

"I think it is incumbent on him to make a call to each and every member of the board and let us know what his plans are," he said.

Cammarata said Crew has shut down lines of communication from his office to the board members.

Cammarata insisted New York will have no problems recruiting a new chancellor, despite fears that the best applicants might be driven off by fears of becoming involved in battles with Giuliani.

"I think New York presents the kinds of challenges that will see applicants lining up for the job," he said.