

## THE ISLAND

# Crew says he'll stick around

■ Schools chancellor intends on staying 'for the duration of the year,' but what happens afterwards is up in the air

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In the face of calls from the Board of Education's Staten Island representative for city schools Chancellor Rudy Crew to declare his intentions, Crew yesterday maintained he had no plans to bolt before the end of the year.

The city's top education official made his remarks during a press briefing in Board of Education headquarters in Brooklyn.

"I want to dispel all rumors. I intend to be in and finish," said Crew.

Jerry Cammarata, the Island's representative to the board, did not return telephone calls seeking additional comment yesterday and did not attend the chancellor's press briefing.

But he told the Advance earlier in the day that he did not have a problem with the job Crew was doing or with him staying on as chancellor. He said that he was concerned, however, that a hasty, 11th-hour farewell from Crew would leave the nation's largest public school system crippled.

"We need stability to assure continued progress," Cammarata said.

Cammarata, who acknowledged that he has discussed the issue with Borough President Guy V. Molinari, said that Crew had done something similar when he left the Tacoma, Wash., school system in 1995 and bolted to New York.

"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. I don't want him leaving New York in a similar lurch," he said.

Crew claims he has no intention of doing that this time.

"My intent is to be here for the duration of the year. And by December I have to indicate my inten-



ADVANCE FILE PHOTO

Rumors have been flying about how Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew is going to abandon the system for a better job. But the embattled educator says that's not so.

tions [thereafter]," he said.

Speculation about Crew's future in New York increased when officials at the University of Washington acknowledged last week that the university had offered the chancellor a top-level position.

In addition, a number of high-profile officials have recently left the Board of Education, including one of Crew's favorites, Chiara Coletti, executive director of public information.

One of Crew's other top hires, Great Kills resident Dr. Margaret Harrington, will also leave shortly after the start of the school year, although her resignation comes reportedly at the request of Crew, who is said to be dissatisfied with her job performance. Dr. Harrington claims she is simply ready to move on to other challenges.