

Board of Ed president re-elected

■ Island representative Jerry Cammarata votes to re-appoint Ninfa Segarra, who won by a 4-3 margin

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Mayoral appointee Ninfa Segarra secured another term yesterday as president of the Board of Education.

Ms. Segarra won by a slender margin of 4 to 3 during the annual election, held in the board's Brooklyn headquarters.

In addition to her own vote, members giving her a thumbs-up were Staten Island representative Jerry Cammarata, Manhattan representative Irving Hamer Jr., and fellow mayoral appointee Irene Impellizzeri.

"The years of experience in gov-

ernment and as a colleague on the Board of Education eminently qualifies her to provide the leadership that will begin to truly reform the way we deliver the business of education in our system," said Cammarata.

To the surprise of board members, Greg Brooks of Brooklyn put forth a presidential nomination for Sandra Lerner of the Bronx. Brooks and Terri Thomson of Queens voted for Ms. Lerner, who also cast a vote for herself.

The board is made up of one member from each of the five boroughs along with two mayoral appointees. It runs the nation's largest school system, with more than 1 million students and a budget in excess of \$9 billion.

Yesterday's decision mirrored the controversial April election, when William Thompson vacated the president's seat. At the time, Ms. Thomson, Brooks and Ms. Lerner abstained, causing a political brouhaha. Hamer cast the swing vote for Ms. Segarra.

As a result, Democratic Borough Presidents C. Virginia Fields of Manhattan and Claire Shulman

of Queens, who had hoped their appointees would vote differently, called for their resignations.

Ms. Segarra, like the mayor, favors abolishing the board she heads, is a fan of school vouchers and privatizing city schools, and is a frequent critic of Schools Chancellor Harold Levy.

"In just three short months as president, Ninfa has proved her commitment to leading the board into a new era of accountability and excellence," Giuliani said in a statement. "Ninfa is the best person to bring about real reform in the school system."

Cammarata added, "Simply by the expansiveness of issues that have been before us in the past few months, she is creating a platform by which the administration will be held more accountable for classroom activity and appropriate budgeting of all resources."

Ms. Segarra was first appointed to the board in 1990 by Democratic Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer. The mayor re-appointed her in 1994.

She served as Giuliani's deputy mayor for education and human services for more than six years



Ninfa Segarra

before resigning last year to take a job with the City University of New York.

Her term on the board will end in June 2002.

(Associated Press material was used in this report.)