

THE ISLAND

Cammarata joins in rebuff of Rudy's school \$\$ plan

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

Staten Island Board of Education member Jerry Cammarata and two other City Hall allies sided with Schools Chancellor Harold Levy yesterday against Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in the fight over school funding.

Cammarata, a Giuliani appointee, joined two other mayoral appointees — Board of Ed President Ninfa Segarra and Irene Impellizzeri — in endorsing the statement denouncing Giuliani's spending plan.

The statement was unanimously approved by the seven-member board, according to news reports.

On Tuesday, Levy and Board of Ed members held a town meeting for Staten Island parents and educators in Susan Wagner High School.

Levy argued that the mayor's proposed \$400 million in city budget cuts would essentially

handcuff the Board of Ed, despite a proposed 2-percent increase for its \$12 billion budget.

"We are very concerned that the executive budget does not adequately provide for our school system," the statement read.

"The board believes the school system is underfunded at both the state and city levels, and that, without additional resources, the school system will not be able to provide the necessary services to our children. ... We support the chancellor in his defense of the system."

Cammarata had no immediate comment on his decision to sign off on the statement when contacted by the Advance this morning.

Giuliani's press office had no immediate comment when told of the revolt by his allies, according to today's New York Post.