

## YOUR OPINION

### Island Board of Ed representative promotes himself, not Island schools

As a past president of the PTA of PS 11, Dongan Hills, as well as former recording secretary of the PTA of IS 2, Midland Beach, and having served on many PTA committees over the years, I, too, have had my experiences with [Staten Island Board of Education representative] Mr. Jerry Cammarata, and I can tell you they were not happy ones.

If ever there has been a man who can be called egotistical and self-serving, it is Mr. Cammarata. He is great for passing the buck when controversial problems are brought to him that will not bring him favor with Mayor Giuliani, and, for the most part, he makes himself totally unreachable.

Several years ago, over much controversy, I headed a small committee that investigated the issue of "racial" variances in Staten Island high schools. I wrote letters to Mr. Cammarata and left many messages at his office. He eloquently passed the buck and was never heard from again.

Yet he expounds on the fact that he is doing his job for the betterment of the children. This is a man who once, when invited to speak and participate at one of IS 2's famous Election Day rallies, handed out to the 7th grade students, a copy of his [book] "The Fun Book of Fatherhood" ... as if they were interested!

While he may sit with superintendents, he ignores, and looks down on some of the more important people — the parents — and turns a deaf ear to most anything they have to say.

I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Cammarata once, soon after he was first elected to the District 31 Community School Board. He handed me a business card and said that if I needed assistance with an issue I was tackling at the time I could call

him. He never said he would help, and he never did help, but he did say I could call him! I remember looking at that business card, noticing that he had placed the "Esq." after his name, and thinking, "Now, isn't that the epitome of arrogance!"

Boy, was I right.

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