

Flatbush Residents Charge Bd. Of Ed. with Canarsie Favoritism

By Craig McGuire

Charges of favoritism toward Canarsie at Community School District 18 surfaced again during a recent education forum in East Flatbush.

New York City Schools Chancellor Ramon Cortines fielded complaints from East Flatbush residents of alleged preferential treatment for Canarsie schools, at the forum hosted by Congressman Edolphus Towns at I.S. 285, 5909 Beverly Road.

Community School District 18 extends from East Flatbush to Canarsie.

Parents, teachers, and students voiced their concerns to the chancellor on a variety of issues, ranging from overcrowded conditions at East Flatbush schools to educational funding provided by the state lottery.

"Today, you have many questions concerning the quality of education for your children," said Towns. "That's why it is important that we hear directly from the chancellor 'amsel'."

State Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein also attended the forum. "We must all join together to support and improve the quality of education," said Weinstein, "not only here in East Flatbush, but throughout the entire city."

Certainly, the cooperation that Weinstein mentioned is a condition many of the speakers felt is absent in District 18.

"I am a senior member



At an education forum held at I.S. 285, Schools Chancellor Ramon Cortines fielded questions on a variety of issues.

futed the parents' assertions.

"I know of not one instance where we've received any substantiated documentation of any preferential treatment to any school in School Board 18," he said.

"Our records are an open book," added Garner. "Board members from all over the district have received a copy of our annual budget report, which was prepared with the leaders of the parents associations in the district, and discussed at monthly school board meetings."

He claimed, "As a matter of fact, a disproportionate amount is spent in East Flatbush due to the greater need."

"If you are not getting a

education as students in Canarsie.

"We are still separate and we are still not equal," said Veberly Russel, a parent and community activist in District 18. "Other schools are getting most of the money while we are struggling for pennies."

"I believe that you have to create a level playing field," said Cortines. "And the only way to create this equity is to allocate funds based on needs."

Overcrowding, an in-



New York City Schools Chancellor Ramon Cortines is welcomed to East Flatbush by I.S. 285 Principal Michael Shapiro, and Congressman Edolphus Towns.

Photos by Craig McGuire

cumbent problem in District 18, was also a topic of importance at the forum.

"We know what the problems are. All of the elementary schools in East Flatbush are overcrowded, but ours is the only middle school in this district with a serious overcrowding problem," said I.S. 285 Parents Association President William Johnson. "And you are going to have serious problems any time you have 1,400 students changing

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Parents, like this one, voiced concerns over the overcrowded conditions in several East Flatbush schools.



Parents at the forum were concerned about the quality of education their children are receiving.