

No More School Closings Resolution

For next month's agenda:

Whereas, the closing of schools neither addresses the complex challenges faced by schools today, nor furthers the quest for the quality education our students need and deserve; and

Whereas, the harm these closings cause to the education of students by overcrowding surviving schools, as well as to the lives and careers of our members who become ATRs and must find new positions, is therefore completely unnecessary; and

Whereas school closings have a domino effect on other non-targeted schools, where thousands of displaced students, many of whom need more support than not, create a situation of overcrowding and vulnerability for phase out; and

Whereas, these closings affect large numbers of UFT members beyond the schools actually being closed, because of the widespread use of the threat of closings to attempt to intimidate us into giving up our rights and compromising our professional judgement; and

Whereas, the Department of Education has announced an unprecedented number of school closings; and

Whereas, holding protests against closings at school sites is necessary but not sufficient to bring our message to widespread public attention, or to put adequate pressure on the City and the Department of Education to halt this destructive policy;

Be it resolved that the United Federation of Teachers will add to its many activities against school closings a march to and rally at Department of Education headquarters at Tweed; and be it further

Resolved, that there will be a full mobilization of all UFT members for this action, as well as a massive effort to gain participation by parent and community groups; and be it further

Resolved, that this action will be held no later than February, 2010.

Grassroots Education Movement

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